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| **Regional Preparatory Meeting for WTDC-17 for Europe (RPM-EUR)** | P:\SUP\Logos\Post-150th Anniv\ITU-logo-UNblue.jpg |
| **Vilnius, Lithuania, 27-28 April 2017** |
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|  | **Document** **RPM-EUR17/11-E** |
| **7 March 2017** |
| **Original: English**  |
| **Chairman, TDAG Correspondence Group on Streamlining WTDC Resolutions** |
| REPORT ON THE WORK OFTDAG CORRESPONDENCE GROUP ON STREAMLINING WTDC RESOLUTIONS |

**Priority area:**

Streamlining WTDC resolutions

**Summary:**

The document provides information on the work of the TDAG Correspondence Group on Streamlining WTDC Resolutions since its creation and the way forward leading to WTDC-17.

**Expected results:**Streamlined, fewer and more concise WTDC resolutions.

**References:**

All documentation regarding the work of the Correspondence Group is available online at: <https://www.itu.int/en/ITU-D/Conferences/TDAG/Pages/TDAG-Correspondence-Group-on-streamlining-Resolutions.aspx>

## Mandate of the Correspondence Group on Streamlining WTDC Resolutions (CG-SR)

At its 21st meeting, the Telecommunication Development Advisory Group (TDAG) decided to create a Correspondence Group on Streamlining WTDC Resolutions (CG-SR).

Dr Ahmad Reza Sharafat, Vice-Chairman of TDAG, was tasked to lead the work of CG-SR under the following terms of reference:

* To review existing World Telecommunication Development Conference (WTDC) Resolutions and Recommendations with a view to streamlining them, taking into account the Resolutions in Plenipotentiary Conference and other Sectors as appropriate.
* To give due regard to the outcomes of the Regional Preparatory Meetings for WTDC-17, as far as the Resolutions and Recommendations are concerned.
* To report to the 2017 meeting of TDAG.

## First meeting of CG-SR

During its first meeting in March 2016, CG-SR had an initial discussion on some guiding principles for the work on reducing the number of resolutions and streamlining their content (see Document [TDAG/CG-SR/2](https://www.itu.int/md/D14-TDAG21.CG.SRES-C-0002/en)). A revised verion of the guiding principles was prepared based on feedback received from the Membership.

The report of the first meeting of TDAG CG-SR is available online (Document [TDAG/CG-SR/3](https://www.itu.int/md/D14-TDAG21.CG.SRES-C-0003/en)).

## Second meeting of CG-SR

The second meeting of CG-SR took place in September 2016. Several contributions from the Membership were discussed.

Argentina presented Document [TDAG/CG-SR/7](https://www.itu.int/md/D14-TDAG21.CG.SRES-C-0007/en) supporting the work of the Correspondence Group and suggesting to unify processes and methods for revising and adopting Resolutions across the three sectors of ITU. The document also emphasizes the importance of putting the process of streamlining Resolutions into the broader context of the discussion on the goals and results of Resolutions. Multiple delegates expressed their support to the contribution from Argentina.

Russian Federation presented three contributions contained in Documents [TDAG/CG-SR/8](https://www.itu.int/md/D14-TDAG21.CG.SRES-C-0008/en), [TDAG/CG-SR/9(Rev.1)](https://www.itu.int/md/D14-TDAG21.CG.SRES-C-0009/en) and [TDAG/CG-SR/10](https://www.itu.int/md/D14-TDAG21.CG.SRES-C-0010/en). The documents put forward concrete proposals leveraging on the common issues addressed and combining two or three Resolutions at a time. Delegates welcomed the proposals and agreed to work along the same lines to develop further proposals for integrating multiple Resolutions.

The revised version of the Draft guiding principles for streamlining resolutions was discussed during the meeting and further comments were received. Delegates in the room expressed their general agreement to use those as a framework in drafting proposals for consolidating Resolutions and putting forward new Resolutions while taking a flexible approach allowing further modifications in the lead to WTDC-17.

The Chairman of CG-SR prepared Document [TDAG/CG-SR/6](https://www.itu.int/md/D14-TDAG21.CG.SRES-C-0006/en) providing detailed mapping of current WTDC Resolutions and Recommendations to PP Resolutions, ITU-D objectives and ITU-D outcomes/outputs, with a view to streamlining them in preparation for WTDC-17. The document also highlights common issues and themes in WTDC Resolutions and Recommendations and provides a broad framework for streamlining existing Resolutions and aligning new proposed Resolutions for WTDC-17. Delegates welcomed the mapping, which could serve as the basis for further discussion and a practical tool for Membership to work on their proposals.

The report of the second meeting of TDAG CG-SR is available online (Document [TDAG/CG-SR/12](https://www.itu.int/md/D14-TDAG21.CG.SRES-C-0012/en)).

## Third meeting of CG-SR

The third physical meeting of CG-SR was held in January 2017. The objective of that meeting was to inform the ITU Membership about the status of the work on streamlining resolutions since the last meeting and have a discussion on the way forward.

The Chair, Dr Sharafat, presented the Draft guiding principles for streamlining WTDC resolutions (Document [TDAG/CG-SR/14](https://www.itu.int/md/D14-TDAG21.CG.SRES-C-0014/en)). He described the document as a useful tool for Members to help them prepare for WTDC-17 in a way that is more productive and more efficient. While the Guiding principles are structured in two tracks – streamlining existing resolutions and drafting new ones – the rationale behind is the same. Dr Sharafat stressed that streamlining aims at harmonization and improved efficiency of WTDC resolutions. Reducing the number of resolutions would also allow to reduce duplication with the BDT Operational Plan and Plenipotentiary Resolutions.

The meeting had a discussion on the Draft guiding principles and further modifications has been made. The latest version of the guiding principles is available in Annex 1 hereafter.

Dr Sharafat reiterated that the Guidelines are open for further modification and will evolve towards WTDC-17 as a non-binding set of rules that are useful to follow to ensure consistency across the body of resolutions. He also advised to submit new resolutions only when they are needed and the issues involved have not been addressed.

Dr Sharafat also encouraged countries to work within their regions on elaborating concrete proposals and developing common positions on the topic of streamlining resolutions.

The report of the third meeting of TDAG CG-SR is available online in Document [TDAG/CH-SR/15](https://www.itu.int/md/D14-TDAG21.CG.SRES-C-0015/).

## Presentation of the discussions regarding streamlining resolutions at RPMs

**RPM-CIS**

A summary document on the work of TDAG CG-SR was submitted to RPM-CIS. The meeting welcomed the document and took note of it.

The following proposals were put forward at RPM-CIS:

* [Document 24](http://www.itu.int/md/D14-RPMCIS-C-0024/en) entitled ***Proposed aggregation of Resolutions 17 and 32***
* [Document 13](http://www.itu.int/md/D14-RPMCIS-C-0013/en) entitled ***Proposed modifications to Resolution 32***
* [Document 25](http://www.itu.int/md/D14-RPMCIS-C-0025/en) entitled ***Proposed aggregation of Resolutions 37 and 50***

Documents 24 and 25 were already presented and discussed during the Second meeting of TDAG CG-SR in September 2016.

RPM-CIS supported Documents 24 and 25 and agreed to prepare on this basis an RCC common proposal to WTDC‑17. Document 13, the suggested modifications of which had already been included in Document 24, will not be submitted to WTDC-17.

**RPM-Africa**

A summary document on the work of TDAG CG-SR was submitted to RPM-AFR. The meeting welcomed the document and took note of it. No proposals were discussed at that stage.

**RPM-ARB**

A summary document on the work of TDAG CG-SR was submitted to RPM-ARB. The meeting welcomed the document and suggested the approach could be used by other ITU Sectors. Several proposals were made, including a proposal of increasing the number of Study Groups.

Participants also noted that while the Draft guiding principles can be used by regional groups in developing their common proposals, they need not be adopted and discussed as a rule in WTDC. The Secretariat confirmed that Member States make decisions and noted that the RPM-ARB discussions will be taken into consideration at the next meeting of the CG‑SR.

**RPM-Americas**

A summary document on the work of TDAG CG-SR was submitted to RPM-AMS. The meeting welcomed the document and took note of the contribution and agreed that further work will be carried out on streamlining resolutions for WTDC‑17. In this regard, it was proposed to take into account the implications these resolutions have on human and financial resources during future regional meetings in preparation for WTDC‑17.

The following proposals were put forward at RPM-AMS:

* [Document 17](https://www.itu.int/md/D14-RPMAMS-C-0017/en) entitled **"*Preliminary considerations to reduce the number of Resolutions*"** was introduced by the Argentine Administration. It proposes a number of guidelines for streamlining resolutions. RPM-AMS welcomed the document and took note of the contribution.
* [Document 28](https://www.itu.int/md/D14-RPMAMS-C-0028/en) entitled **"*Draft merger of Resolution 46 (Assistance and promotion for indigenous communities in the world: Information society through information and communication technology) and Resolution 68*"**, was introduced by the Republic of Paraguay Administration. It proposes merging Resolution 46 (Rev. Doha, 2006) with Resolution 68 (Rev. Dubai, 2014) "Assistance to indigenous peoples within the activities of the Telecommunication Development Bureau in its related programmes". Documents 28 and 31 were considered together.
* [Document 31](https://www.itu.int/md/D14-RPMAMS-C-0031/en) entitled **"*Proposed deletion of Resolution 68, Assistance to Indigenous Peoples within the Activities of the Telecommunication Development Bureau in its related programmes*"**, was introduced by the Republic of Paraguay Administration. It proposes the deletion of Resolution 68, following the proposed merging of Resolution 46 (Rev. Doha, 2006)" with Resolution 68 (Rev. Dubai, 2014).

The Secretariat clarified that RPM-AMS is not expected to take a decision on the proposed merger of Resolutions. The Chairman's Report will reflect the proposal with the understanding that Administrations will continue to work on proposals with the aim of revising, merging and abrogating Resolutions.

On this basis, RPM-AMS welcomed the documents and took note of the contributions from Paraguay and agreed that more detailed discussion on these proposals would take place in future regional meetings in preparation for WTDC‑17.

* [Document 29](https://www.itu.int/md/D14-RPMAMS-C-0029/en) entitled **"*Draft merger of Resolution 50*** **(Optimal Integration of Information and Communication Technologies and Their Applications) *with Resolution 54*"**, was introduced by the Paraguay Administration. It proposes merging Resolution 50 (Rev. Dubai, 2014) with Resolution 54 (Rev. Dubai, 2014) "Information and communication technology applications". Documents 29 and 30 were considered together.
* [Document 30](https://www.itu.int/md/D14-RPMAMS-C-0030/en) entitled **"*Draft elimination of Resolution 54*"**, was introduced by the Republic of Paraguay Administration. It proposes the deletion of Resolution 54 (Rev. Dubai, 2014) following the proposed merging of Resolution 50 with Resolution 54.

RPM-AMS welcomed the documents and took note of the contributions from Paraguay and agreed that more detailed discussion on these proposals would take place in future regional meetings in preparation for WTDC‑17.

## Way forward

The fourth physical meeting of CG-SR will take place on 3 April 2017 at 1 p.m. at the ITU headquarters in Geneva, Switzerland. Contributions and concrete proposals are encouraged in order to advance the task of the Group.

Based on the work carried out and the discussions during Regional Preparatory Meetings (RPMs), the Chairman of the Correspondence Group will submit a separate report to TDAG-17, for consideration.

The final report of CG-SR will be submitted to WTDC-17 for appropriate action. WTDC-17 is going to make final decision on all proposals drafted in the lead to WTDC-17.

ANNEX 1

A. Guiding principles for streamlining existing WTDC Resolutions

The following guiding principles might prove useful in the work on streamlining Resolutions:

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Principle | Questions |
| Coherence & Consistency | Is the Resolution consistent with the BDT mandate and the WTDC Action Plan? |
| Overlap & duplication | Is there an overlap or duplication with existing WTDC Resolutions or with the Action Plan? Are the goals of Resolutions already reflected in the ITU-D Strategic Plan objectives, programmes, regional initiatives (RIs), Study Group (SG) questions, or BDT working methods? |
| Necessity | Is the Resolution indispensable? Is there already another WTDC/Council/PP Resolution or Resolutions which address the same topic or action? Has the Resolution already been implemented? |
| Action-orientation & accountability | Does the Resolution call for a specific action or outcome? Is there a clear accountability line in the Resolution? What are the cost implications of the Resolution for ITU-D, in terms of implementation budget and related costs? |

In general, streamlining existing Resolutions is preferable to adding a new Resolution.

When the actions or activities put forward in a Resolution have been implemented or accomplished, the Resolution can be viewed as fulfilled and removed.

Editorial revisions of adopted Resolutions should be kept to the minimum or to what is strictly necessary for its efficient implementation.

If only editorial updates are required to a WTDC Resolution, the need to produce a revised version should be questioned.

#### B. Guidelines for drafting new WTDC Resolutions

New Resolutions are intended to define working methodsoraddress issues which are demonstrably new and of highest importance for ITU-D, and which have not been considered in existing WTDC documents or internationally-agreed development agendas.

Concretely:

* New proposed Resolutions should be aligned and harmonized with existing ones;
* New proposed Resolutions should involve a distinct new subject within the scope of BDT or an issue that represents a significant new or unaddressed challenge related to telecommunications/ICT development or public policy;
* New proposed Resolutions should normally not involve a subject already covered in the WTDC Action Plan and the Operational Plan;
* If an existing Plenipotentiary Conference (PP) Resolution identifies a priority issue, the need for a similar WTDC Resolution should be carefully considered;
* The need for a new WTDC Resolution should be carefully examined if a new proposed Resolutions involves subjects already covered by internationally-agreed development goals, such as the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and the goals of the World Summit on the Information Society (WSIS), as those are also already established as reporting lines;
* New proposed Resolution should specify an expected result(s) or outcome(s) so that its implementation can be measured, in line with result-based management principles. It should likewise specify an appropriate reporting mechanism;
* New proposed Resolutions should be backed by more than one Member State Administrations.

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**ANNEX 2**

**DRAFT REVISED GUIDELINES FOR STREAMLINING WTDC RESOLUTIONS**

A. Guiding principles for streamlining existing WTDC Resolutions

The following guiding principles might prove useful in the work on streamlining Resolutions:

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Principle | Questions |
| Coherence & Consistency | Is the Resolution consistent with the BDT mandate and the WTDC Action Plan? |
| Overlap & duplication | Is there an overlap or duplication with existing WTDC Resolutions or with the Action Plan? Are the goals of Resolutions already reflected in the ITU-D Strategic Plan objectives, programmes, regional initiatives (RIs), Study Group (SG) questions, or BDT working methods? |
| Necessity | Is the Resolution indispensable? Is there already another WTDC/Council/PP Resolution or Resolutions which address the same topic or action? Has the Resolution already been implemented? |
| Action-orientation & accountability | Does the Resolution call for a specific action or outcome? Is there a clear accountability line in the Resolution?  |

In general, streamlining existing Resolutions is preferable to adding a new Resolution.

When the actions or activities put forward in a Resolution have been implemented or accomplished, the Resolution can be viewed as fulfilled and removed.

Editorial revisions of adopted Resolutions should be kept to the minimum or to what is strictly necessary for its efficient implementation.

#### If only editorial updates are required to a WTDC Resolution, the need to produce a revised version should be questioned.

#### B. Guidelines for drafting new WTDC Resolutions

New Resolutions are intended to define working methodsoraddress issues which are demonstrably new and of highest importance for ITU-D, and which have not been considered in existing WTDC documents or internationally-agreed development agendas.

Concretely:

* New proposed Resolutions should be aligned and harmonized with existing ones;
* New proposed Resolutions should involve a distinct new subject within the scope of BDT or an issue that represents a significant new or unaddressed challenge related to ICT development or public policy;
* New proposed Resolutions should normally not involve a subject already covered in the WTDC Action Plan and the Operational Plan;
* If an existing Plenipotentiary Conference (PP) Resolution identifies a priority issue, the need for a similar WTDC Resolution should be carefully considered;
* The need for a new WTDC Resolution should be carefully examined if a new proposed Resolutions involves subjects already covered by internationally-agreed development goals, such as the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and the goals of the World Summit on the Information Society (WSIS), as those are also already established as reporting lines;
* New proposed Resolution should specify an expected result(s) or outcome(s) so that its implementation can be measured, in line with result-based management principles. It should likewise specify an appropriate reporting mechanism;
* New proposed Resolutions should be backed by more than one Member State Administrations.

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