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|  | **Document** **TDAG17-22/****44-E** |
|  | **26 April 2017** |
|  | **Original: Russian** |
| RUSSIAN FEDERATION[[1]](#footnote-1) |
| RULES OF PROCEDURE OF ITU-D (WTDC RESOLUTION 1) |
|  |
| **Summary:**This contribution proposes amendments to the text of WTDC Resolution 1 taking into account the suggestions of the TDAG Correspondence Group on Rules of Procedure of ITU-D (WTDC Resolution 1), proposals discussed at the Regional Preparatory Meeting for WTDC-17 for CIS (RPM-CIS), 9-11 November 2016 and further amendments based on analysis of Resolution ITU-R 1-7 approved by the Radiocommunication Assembly 2015 (RA-15) and Resolution 1 (Rev. Hammamet, 2016) approved by the World Telecommunication Standardization Assembly 2016 (WTSA-16). The aims of this contribution are to add missing provisions and clarify certain provisions that might not be clear, rectify inconsistencies between provisions and add various parts that are missing as well as to harmonize in the extent practicable with rules of procedure and working methods other ITU Sectors while maintaining the specificity of ITU-D. This should help to avoid misunderstandings in the work of ITU-D in applying the methods and rules of procedure set forth in Resolution 1.**Expected results:**The document is submitted to TDAG 2017 meeting, and may be submitted to WTDC-17 for final consideration.**Action required:**TDAG is invited to consider this document and take action **References:**WTDC Resolution 1 (Rev. Dubai, 2014), [TDAG16-21/8(Rev.1)](https://www.itu.int/md/D14-TDAG21-C-0008/), [RPM-CIS16/10 (Rev.1)](http://www.itu.int/md/meetingdoc.asp?lang=en&parent=D14-RPMCIS-C-0010), [RPM-CIS16/23](http://www.itu.int/md/meetingdoc.asp?lang=en&parent=D14-RPMCIS-C-0023), [RPM-CIS16/27](http://www.itu.int/md/meetingdoc.asp?lang=en&parent=D14-RPMCIS-C-0027), [RPM-CIS16/28](http://www.itu.int/md/meetingdoc.asp?lang=en&parent=D14-RPMCIS-C-0028), [Resolution ITU-R 1-7](https://www.itu.int/pub/publications.aspx?lang=en&parent=R-RES-R.1), WTSA Resolution 1 (Rev. Hammamet, 2016)  |

**1 Introduction**

The Russian Federation appreciates activities of the TDAG Correspondence Group on Rules of Procedure of ITU-D (WTDC Resolution 1) that is reviewing the existing text in Resolution 1 (Rev. Dubai, 2014) in order to (i) build upon the extensive work in this regard undertaken during WTDC-14; (ii) give practical interpretation of the working methods and (iii) prepare proposals for further consideration by ITU membership.

The Russian Federation considers that, since it is devoted to ITU-D working methods and rules of procedure, Resolution 1 is extremely important in ensuring that the Sector operates effectively. The text of the resolution needs to be precise, clear and not leave room for different interpretations of the working methods and procedures.

The Russian Federation supports most of modifications suggested by the TDAG Correspondence Group on Rules of Procedure of ITU-D and also considers that further amendments such as are necessary:

1. to bring references to the ITU Constitution and the ITU Convention in line with the precise wording of the basic documents of the Union;
2. to provide missing definitions, missing procedures (for example a procedure for deletion of recommendations) and provisions clarifying the existing procedures;
3. to introduce new Section 2 – Documentation of ITU-D containing definitions of most documents (already existing or new definitions in cases where they are not provided in current WTDC Resolution 1);
4. incorporate the relevant provisions of WTDC Resolution 31 - Regional preparations for world telecommunication development conferences into WTDC Resolution 1 and suppress WTDC Resolution 31;
5. to harmonize WTDC Resolution 1, in the extent practicable, with rules of procedure and working methods of other Sectors taking into account amendments introduced by RA-15 and WTSA-16 while respecting, at the same time, specificity of ITU-D;
6. to apply the same numbering scheme as being used by other Sectors (numbering is linked to Section numbers).

However, the Russian Federation does not support introduction of Focus groups in ITU-D. Taking into account the limited financial resources of ITU-D, BDT will not be able to provide financial support for participation of developing countries in focus group meeting. There is also no possibility to provide interpretation during meetings of focus groups. These factors would not allow effective participation of developing countries in these meetings. Moreover, the previous experience in ITU-D clearly indicated that many documents submitted to focus group meetings were also submitted for consideration by study groups and that lead to duplication of work and wasting limited resources.

**2 Proposal**

The Russian Federation proposes revision to WTDC Resolution 1 as shown in Annex 1.

Annex 1

DRAFT REVISION RESOLUTION 1 (Rev. Buenos-Aires, 2017)

Rules of procedure of the ITU Telecommunication Development Sector

The World Telecommunication Development Conference (Buenos-Aires, 2017),

considering

*a)* that the functions, duties and organization of the ITU Telecommunication Development Sector (ITU‑D) are stated in Articles 21, 22 and 23 of the ITU Constitution;

*b)* that the general working arrangements of ITU‑D are defined in the ITU Convention;

*c)* that the General Rules of conferences, assemblies and meetings of the Union adopted by the Plenipotentiary Conference, and Resolution 165 (Guadalajara, 2010) of the Plenipotentiary Conference, on deadlines for the submission of proposals and procedures for the registration of participants for conferences and assemblies of the Union, apply to the World Telecommunication Development Conference (WTDC);

*d)* Resolution 72 (Rev. Busan, 2014) of the Plenipotentiary Conference, on linking strategic, financial and operational planning in ITU,

considering also

*a)* that ITU‑D shall work, among others, through telecommunication development study groups, the Telecommunication Development Advisory Group (TDAG) and regional and world meetings organized within the framework of the Sector's Action Plan;

*b)* that, in accordance with No. 207A of the Convention, the World Telecommunication Development Conference is authorized to adopt the working methods and procedures for the management of the Sector's activities in accordance with No. 145A of the Constitution;

c) that in accordance with Resolution 77 (Rev. Busan, 2014) on scheduling and duration of conferences, forums, assemblies, and Council sessions of the Union (2015-2019), ITU conferences and assemblies shall, in principle, be held in the last quarter of the year, and not in the same year,

taking into account

*a)* that the six regional organizations specified in Resolution 58 (Rev. Busan, 2014)[[2]](#footnote-2)1 have coordinated their preparations for this conference through preparatory meetings;

*b)* that many common proposals have been submitted to this conference from administrations which have participated in the preparations, thereby facilitating the work of this conference;

*c)* that this consolidation of views at regional level, together with the opportunity for interregional discussions prior to the conference, through the consolidated report on the results of the preparatory meetings, has eased the task of reaching a consensus at the last meeting of the TDAG of the ITU-D and during the conference,

resolves

that, for ITU‑D, the general provisions of the Convention referred to in *considering b), c), d)* and *considering also b)* should be supplemented by the provisions of this resolution and its annexes, bearing in mind that, in the case of inconsistency, the Constitution, the Convention and the General Rules of conferences, assemblies and meetings of the Union (in that order) shall prevail over this resolution.

SECTION 1 – World Telecommunication Development Conference

**1.1** WTDC, in undertaking the duties assigned to it in Article 22 of the Constitution, Article 16 of the Convention and the General Rules of conferences, assemblies and meetings of the Union, shall conduct the work of each conference by setting up committees and one or more groups to address organization, work programme, budget control and editorial matters, and to consider other specific matters if required.

**1.2** It shall establish a steering committee, presided over by the chairman of the conference, and composed of the vice-chairmen of the conference and the chairmen and vice-chairmen of the committees and any group(s) created by the conference.

**1.3** WTDC shall establish a budget control committee and an editorial committee, the tasks and responsibilities of which are set out in the General Rules of conferences, assemblies and meetings of the Union (General Rules, Nos 69-74):

a) The Budget Control Committee, *inter alia*, examines the estimated total expenses of the conference and estimates the financial needs of ITU‑D up to the next WTDC and the costs entailed by the execution of the decisions of the conference.

b) The Editorial Committee perfects the wording of texts arising from WTDC deliberations, such as resolutions, without altering their sense and substance, and aligns the texts in the official languages of the Union.

**1.4** In addition to the steering, budget control and editorial committees, the two following committees are set up:

a) The Committee on Working Methods of ITU‑D, the terms of reference of which are to examine proposals and contributions relating to cooperation among members; to evaluate the working methods and functioning of the ITU‑D study groups and TDAG; to assess and identify options for maximizing programme delivery and to approve appropriate changes thereto with a view to strengthening the synergies between study group Questions, programmes and regional initiatives; and to submit to the plenary meeting reports, including proposals on the ITU‑D working methods for implementation of the ITU‑D work programme, on the basis of TDAG and study group reports submitted to the conference and the proposals of ITU Member States, ITU‑D Sector Members and Academia.

b) The Committee on Objectives, the terms of reference of which are to review and approve the outputs and outcomes for the objectives; to review and agree on the related study group Questions and regional initiatives and establish appropriate guidelines for their implementation; to review and agree on relevant resolutions; and to ensure that the output is in accordance with a results-based management approach aiming to improve management effectiveness and accountability.

**1.5** The plenary meeting of a WTDC may set up other committees or groups that meet to address specific matters, if required, in accordance with No. 63 of the General Rules of conferences, assemblies and meetings of the Union. The terms of reference should be contained in the establishing resolution.

**1.6** All committees and groups referred to in §§ 1.2 to 1.5 above shall normally cease to exist with the closing of WTDC except, if required and subject to the approval of the conference and within the budgetary limits, the Editorial Committee. The Editorial Committee may therefore hold meetings after the closing of WTDC to complete its tasks as assigned by the conference.

**1.7** Prior to the inaugural meeting of WTDC, in accordance with No. 49 of the General Rules of conferences, assemblies and meetings of the Union, the heads of delegation shall meet to prepare the agenda for the first plenary meeting and make proposals for the organization of the conference, including proposals for chairmanships and vice-chairmanships of WTDC, its committees and groups.

**1.8** The programme of work of WTDC shall be designed to provide adequate time for consideration of the important administrative and organizational aspects of ITU‑D. As a general rule:

**1.8.1** WTDC shall consider reports from the Director of the Telecommunication Development Bureau (BDT) and, pursuant to No. 208 of the Convention, shall establish work programmes and guidelines for defining telecommunication development questions and priorities and shall provide direction and guidance for the ITU‑D work programme. It shall decide on the need to maintain, terminate or establish study groups, allocate to each of them the Questions to be studied and, taking into account consideration by the heads of delegation, appoint the chairmen and vice‑chairmen of study groups, of TDAG and of any other groups it has established, taking account of Article 20 of the Convention. The study group chairmen themselves shall, during the conference, be at the disposal of WTDC to provide information on matters relating to the study group they chair.

**1.8.2** WTDC shall establish a declaration, a plan of action, including programmes and regional initiatives, ITU‑D's contribution to the draft ITU strategic plan, ITU‑D study group Questions, as well as resolutions and recommendations.

**1.9** A WTDC may express its opinion relating to the duration or agenda of a future WTDC.

**1.10** During WTDC, the heads of delegation shall meet:

a) to consider the proposals concerning the work programme and the constitution of study groups in particular;

b) to draw up proposals concerning the designation of chairmen and vice‑chairmen of study groups, TDAG and any other groups established by WTDC (see section 3).

**1.11** In those cases indicated in § 1.8.1, a WTDC may be asked to consider the approval or deletion of one or more new or revised Recommendations. The report of any study group(s) or TDAG proposing such action should include information on why such action is proposed.

Editorial Note: Content of No. 1.12 was moved to the new Section 2 – Documentation of ITU-D

**1.12** Voting

Should there be a need for a vote by Member States at WTDC, the vote will be conducted according to the relevant sections of the Constitution, Convention and General Rules of conferences, assemblies and meetings of the Union.

**1.13** In accordance with No. 213A of the Convention, and the provisions of Article 17A of the Convention, WTDC may assign specific matters within its competence to TDAG, indicating the recommended action on those matters.

**1.14** TDAG is authorized in accordance with Resolution 24 of WTDC to act on behalf of WTDC in the period between conferences.

**1.15** TDAG shall report to the next WTDC on progress in matters that may be included in agendas of future WTDCs as well as on the progress of ITU‑D studies in response to requests made by previous conferences.

**1.16** Preparations for WTDCs

**1.16.1** The Director of BDT shall organize, within the financial limitations, one regional development conference or preparatory meeting per region for each of the six regions, in a reasonable time-frame, prior to the last meeting of TDAG before the next WTDC, and avoiding overlap with other relevant ITU-D meetings, making full use of the regional offices to facilitate such conferences or meetings.

**1.16.2** The Secretary-General, in cooperation with the Director of BDT, shall on the basis of consultations with Member States and regional telecommunication organizations in the six regions provide assistance in such areas as:

i) organization of informal and formal regional and interregional preparatory meetings;

ii) organization of information sessions;

iii) identification of mutual coordination methods;

iv) identification of major matters to be resolved by the future WTDC.

**1.16.3** In close consultation with the chairmen and vice-chairmen of the regional development conferences or preparatory meetings, a report consolidating the results of such meetings shall be prepared for submission to the TDAG meeting immediately preceding WTDC.

SECTION 2 – Documentation of ITU-D

**2.1 General principles**

In 2.1.1 and 2.1.2 below, the term "texts" is used for ITU-D Declaration, Action Plan, Objectives, Programmes, Resolutions, Decisions, Questions, Recommendations, Reports, Handbooks and other documents, as defined in 2.2 to 2.11.

**2.1.1 Presentation of texts**

2.1.1.1 Texts should be as brief as possible, taking account of the necessary content, and should relate directly to the Objective, Resolution or Question/topic or part of the Objective, Resolution, Question/topic being studied.

2.1.1.2 Each text may include a reference to related texts and, where appropriate, to relevant provisions of the Radio Regulations (RR) or the International Telecommunication Regulations (ITR), without any interpretation or qualification of the RR or the ITR or suggesting any change to them.

2.1.3 Texts (including Resolutions, Decisions, Questions, Recommendations, etc.) shall be presented showing their number, their title and an indication of the year of their initial approval, where appropriate, and the year of approval of revisions.

2.1.4 Annexes to any of these texts should be considered as having equivalent status, unless otherwise specified.

**2.1.2 Publication of texts**

2.1.2.1. All texts shall be published in electronic form as soon as possible after approval and may also be made available in paper form according to the publication policy of ITU.

2.1.2.2 Approved new WTDC Declaration, Action Plan, Objectives, Programmes, new or revised Resolutions, Decisions, Questions, Recommendations and Reports (if a report exceeds 50 pages § 3.10.4.1 applies) will be published by ITU in the official languages of the Union as soon as practicable. Other texts will be published, as soon as possible, in English only or in the six official languages of the Union, depending on the decision of the relevant group.

**2.2 ITU-D Declaration**

**2.2.1 Definition**

**Declaration**: Statement of the main outcomes and priorities established by WTDC. The declaration is usually named after the conference venue.

**2.2.2 Approval**

WTDC shall examine and approve a new WTDC Declaration based on proposals by Member States and ITU-D Sector Members or suggestions by TDAG, taking into account new trends in development of telecommunication/ICT and emerging issues, particularly, in developing countries.

**2.3 ITU-D Action Plan**

**2.3.1 Definition**

**Action Plan**: A comprehensive package that will promote the equitable and sustainable development of telecommunication/ICT networks and services. It consists of study group Questions, programmes and regional initiatives that address the specific needs of the regions. The Action Plan is usually named after the conference venue.

**2.3.2 Approval**

WTDC shall examine and approve a new WTDC Action Plan based on proposals by Member States, ITU-D Sector Members supported by regional organizations (as specified in Resolution 58 of Plenipotentiary Conference) or suggestions by TDAG, paying special attention to the needs of developing countries.

**2.4 ITU-D Objectives/Programmes**

**2.4.1 Definition**

**Objective/Programme**: Key elements of the Action Plan, constituting components of the toolkit BDT uses when solicited by Member States and ITU-D Sector Members to support their efforts to build the information society for all. In the implementation of objectives/ programmes, account should be taken of the resolutions, decisions, recommendations and reports emanating from WTDC.

**2.4.2 Approval**

WTDC shall examine and approve new Objectives/Programmes proposed by Member States and ITU-D Sector Members.

**2.5 ITU-D Resolutions/Decisions**

**2.5.1 Definition**

**Resolution/Decision**: A WTDC text containing provisions on the organization, working methods and programmes of ITU‑D.

**2.5.2 Approval**

WTDC shall examine and may approve revised or new Resolutions/Decisions proposed by Member States and ITU-D Sector Members or suggested by TDAG.

**2.5.3 Deletion**

WTDC may delete Resolutions/Decisions based on proposal from Member States and ITU-D Sector Members of suggested by TDAG.

**2.6 ITU-D Questions**

**2.6.1 Definition**

**Question**: Description of an area of work to be studied, normally leading to the production of new or revised Recommendations, guidelines, handbooks or reports.

**2.6.2 Approval**

The procedure for approving Questions is set out in Section 5 of this resolution.

**2.6.3 Deletion**

The procedure for deleting Questions is set out in Section 6 of this resolution.

**2.7 ITU-D Recommendations**

**2.7.1 Definition**

**Recommendation**: An answer to a Question or part of a Question for the organization of the work of ITU‑D, which, within the scope of existing knowledge and the research carried out by study groups and adopted in accordance with established procedures, may provide guidance on technical, organizational, tariff-related and operational matters, including working methods, may describe a preferred method or proposed solution for undertaking a specific task, or may recommend procedures for specific applications. These Recommendations should be sufficient to serve as a basis for international cooperation.

**2.7.2 Approval**

The procedure for approving Recommendations is set out in Section 7 of this resolution.

**2.7.3 Deletion**

The procedure for deleting Recommendations is set out in Section 8 of this resolution.

**2.8 ITU-D Reports**

**2.8.1 Definition**

**Report**: A technical, operational or procedural statement, prepared by a study group on a given subject related to a current Question. Several types of reports are defined in § 3.10 of section 3.

An Output Report represents the principal results of a study and should be considered and approved by the relevant study group.

**2.8.2 Approval of output Reports**

Each study group may approve revised or new output report by consensus.

If there is no consensus, after all efforts to reach consensus have been exhausted, the study group may approve the draft Output Report by the majority of Member States present at the meeting. The chairman will invite the objecting Member States to include their statements in the meeting report or in the Output Report (if necessary).

**2.8.3 Deletion of output Reports**

Each study group may delete ITU-D output report preferably by consensus or by decision of the majority of Member States present at the meeting.

**2.9 ITU-D Handbooks**

**2.9.1 Definition**

**Handbook**: A text which provides a statement of the current knowledge, the present position of studies or good operating or technical practice, in certain aspects of telecommunication/ICT, which should be addressed to a telecommunication engineer, system planner or operating official who plans, designs or uses telecommunication services or systems, paying particular attention to the requirements of developing countries.

**2.9.2 Approval**

Each study group may approve revised or new Handbooks by consensus. The study group may authorize its relevant working party to approve Handbooks.

If there is no consensus, after all efforts to reach consensus have been exhausted, the study group/working party may approve the draft Handbook by the majority of Member States present at the meeting.

**2.9.3 Deletion**

Each study group may delete Handbooks preferably by consensus or by decision of the majority of Member States present at the meeting.

**2.10 ITU-D Guidelines**

**2.10.1 Definition**

**Guideline**: An informative publication containing information on the current knowledge, the present position of studies or good operating or technical practices, in certain aspects of telecommunication/ICT, which should be addressed to engineers, system planners or operating organizations who plan, design or use international telecommunication services or systems, paying particular attention to the requirements of developing countries.

NOTE – It should be self-contained, and should require no familiarity with other ITU-D texts or procedures, but should not duplicate the scope and content of publications readily available outside ITU.

**2.10.2 Approval**

Each study group may approve revised or new Guidelines by consensus. The study group may authorize its relevant working party to approve Guidelines.

If there is no consensus, after all efforts to reach consensus have been exhausted, the study group/working party may approve the draft Guideline by the majority of Member States present at the meeting.

**2.10.3 Deletion**

Each study group may delete Guidelines preferably by consensus or by decision of the majority of Member States present at the meeting.

**2.11 ITU-D Statistics Indicators**

**2.11.1 Definition**

**Statistics Indicator**: A comprehensive collection of telecommunication/ICT data and statistics compiled by the BDT staff. It collects, harmonizes and disseminates more than 100 telecommunication and ICT indicators from over 200 economies around the world. ITU regularly publishes analytical reports illustrating the latest trends in the global telecommunication/ICT sector.

SECTION 3 – Study groups and their relevant groups

# 3.1 Classification of study groups and their relevant groups

**3.1.1** WTDC establishes study groups, each studying telecommunication/ICT matters of interest to the developing countries in particular, including the issues referred to in No. 211 of the Convention. Study groups shall observe strictly Nos 214, 215, 215A and 215B of the Convention.

**3.1.2** To facilitate their work, the study groups may set up working parties, rapporteur's groups and joint rapporteur's groups to deal with specific Questions or parts of thereof, including with the participation of other ITU Sectors. Working parties are understood to exist over an undefined period to answer Questions and study the topics put before the study group. Each working party will study Questions and these topics, and prepares draft reports, guidelines and other texts for consideration by the study groups. To limit the resource impact on ITU-D, Member States, Sector Members, Associates and Academia, a study group shall establish by consensus and maintain only the minimum number of working parties.

**3.1.3** Where appropriate, regional groups may be set up within the study groups to study Questions or problems, the specific nature of which makes it desirable that they be studied within the framework of one or more regions of the Union.

**3.1.4** The establishment of regional groups should not give rise to duplication of work being carried out at the global level by the corresponding study groups, their relevant groups or any other groups established pursuant to No. 209A of the Convention.

**3.1.5** Joint rapporteur's groups (JRG) may be established for Questions requiring the participation of experts from more than one study group. Unless otherwise specified, the working methods of JRGs should be identical to those of rapporteur groups. At the time a JRG is established, its terms of reference, reporting lines and final decision-making authority should be clearly identified.

# 3.2 Chairmen and vice-chairmen

**3.2.1** Appointment of chairmen and vice-chairmen by WTDC shall be primarily based upon proven competence both in matters considered by the study group concerned and in terms of the management skills required, taking into account the need to promote gender balance in leadership positions and equitable geographical distribution, in particular promoting the participation of developing countries through Member States and ITU-D Sector Members.

**3.2.2** Within the mandate set out by WTDC Resolution 2, study group chairmen shall be responsible for the establishment of an appropriate structure for the distribution of work, after consulting with study group vice-chairmen.The study group chairmen perform the duties required of them within their study groups or within joint coordination activities.

**3.2.3** The mandate of the vice-chairmen shall be to assist the chairman in matters relating to the management of the study group, including substitution for the chairman at official ITU‑D meetings or replacement of the chairman should he or she be unable to continue with study group duties. Each vice‑chairman should be assigned specific functions based upon the study group program of work.

**3.2.4** Study group vice-chairmen may in turn be selected as chairmen of working parties or as rapporteurs, with the sole limitation that they may not occupy more than two posts at the same time in the study period.

**3.2.5** Thereis a need to appoint only the relevant number of vice-chairmen for study groups and working parties in line with Resolution 61 of WTDC.

**3.2.6** Study group chairmen should participate in WTDC and TDAG to represent study groups.

# 3.3 Rapporteurs

**3.3.1** Rapporteurs are appointed by a study group in order to progress the study of a Question and to develop new and revised reports, opinions and Recommendations. A rapporteur may have responsibility for one Question. The study group may also appoint co-rapporteurs in order to balance the workload and facilitate achieving the optimum results.

**3.3.2** Because of the nature of the studies, rapporteur appointments should be based both on expertise in the subject to be studied and on the ability to coordinate the work. Elements of the expected work carried out by the rapporteurs are described in Annex 5 to this resolution.

**3.3.3** Clear terms of reference for the work of the rapporteur, including expected results, should be added to the corresponding Question, by the study group, as required.

**3.3.4** One rapporteur and one or more vice-rapporteurs are appointed, as appropriate, by a study group for each Question. One of the vice-rapporteur should automatically takes over the chairmanship when the rapporteur is not available. This also includes the case of rapporteurs who are no longer representing the Member State or ITU‑D Sector Member which nominated them in accordance with § ‎3.6.1 below. Vice-rapporteurs may be representatives from Member States, ITU-D Sector Members, Associates or Academia[[3]](#footnote-3)1. When a vice-rapporteur is called upon to replace a rapporteur for the rest of the study period, a new vice-rapporteur is nominated from among the membership of the study group concerned.

# 3.4 Powers of the study groups

**3.4.1** Each study group may develop draft new or revised Recommendations for approval either by WTDC or pursuant to section 7 below. Recommendations approved in accordance with either procedure shall have the same status.

**3.4.2** Each study group may also adopt draft Questions for approval by TDAG in accordance with the procedure described in § 5.1.2 of section 5 below or for approval by WTDC.

**3.4.3** In addition to the above, each study group shall be competent to approve guidelines, reports and handbooks.

**3.4.4** In cases where the implementation of the results obtained is through activities of BDT, such as workshops, regional meetings, or surveys, these activities should be reflected in the annual operational plan and conducted in coordination with the relevant study Question. *(Editorial Note: Modification of the substance by the Rapporteur was not accepted because this provision is related to BDT activities not study groups.)*

**3.4.5** In the cases where the terms of reference of a rapporteur group are completed prior to the end of the study period, the study group should issue guidelines, reports, best practices and Recommendations promptly for review by the membership.

# 3.5 Meetings

**3.5.1** The study groups and their relevant groups should normally meet at ITU headquarters.

**3.5.2** Study groups and their relevant groups may meet outside Geneva if invited by Member States, ITU‑D Sector Members, or organizations other than Administrations as pursuant to Article 19 of the Convention (hereafter called other authorized entities and organizations) authorized in this respect by a Member State, having regard to facilitating the attendance of developing countries[[4]](#footnote-4)2. Such invitations shall normally be considered only if they are submitted to WTDC, to TDAG or to an ITU‑D study group meeting. If such invitations cannot be submitted to any of these meetings, the decision to accept the invitation rests with the Director of BDT in consultation with the chairman of the study group concerned. They may be finally accepted after consultation with the Director if they are in consistency with Resolution 5 of the Plenipotentiary Conference, compatible with the resources allocated to ITU‑D by the Council and the responsibility and mandates of study groups.

**3.5.3** Regional and subregional meetings offer a valuable opportunity for information exchange and for the development of management and technical experience and expertise. Every opportunity should be taken to provide additional opportunities for experts (study group participants) from developing countries to gain experience by participating in regional and subregional meetings which deal with study group work. To this end, invitations to regional and subregional meetings organized on topics dealt with by study groups should be extended to participants of the rapporteur's groups concerned.

**3.5.4** The invitations referred to in § ‎3.5.2 above shall be issued and accepted, and the corresponding meetings outside Geneva organized, only if the conditions laid down in Resolution 5 of the Plenipotentiary Conference and ITU Council Decision 304 are met. Invitations to hold meetings of the study groups or their relevant groups away from Geneva shall be accompanied by a statement indicating the host's agreement to defray the additional expenditure involved and that it will provide at least adequate premises and the necessary furniture and equipment free of charge, except that in the case of developing countries, equipment need not necessarily be provided free of charge by the host government, if the government so requests.

**3.5.5** Relevant groups of study groups may benefit from meetings held via teleconference, having regard to the possibilities of developing countries and their ability to participate by teleconference, or other alternative arrangements, rather than at ITU headquarters or in a region. A request by a rapporteur for such a meeting should be submitted to and approved by the parent study group.

**3.5.6** The dates, place and agenda for meetings of relevant groups shall be agreed by the parent study group.

**3.5.7** Should an invitation be cancelled for any reason, it shall be proposed that the meeting be convened in Geneva, in principle on the date originally planned.

# 3.6 Participation in meetings

**3.6.1** Member States, ITU-D Sector Members, Associates, Academia and other authorized entities and organizations to participate in ITU‑D activities shall be represented, in the study groups and subordinate groups in whose work they wish to take part, by participants registered by name and chosen by them as representatives to make an effective contribution to the study of the Questions entrusted to those study groups. Chairmen of meetings may, in accordance with No. 248A of Article 20 of the Convention, invite individual experts, as appropriate, to present their specific point of view at one or more meetings, without taking part in the decision‑making process and without giving the expert the right to participate in any other meetings to which a specific invitation by the chairman has not been extended. Experts may present reports and submissions for information at the request of the chairmen of meetings; they may also participate in relevant discussions.

**3.6.2** The Director of BDT shall keep up to date a list of the Member States, ITU-D Sector Members, Associates, Academia and other authorized entities and organizations participating in each study group.

**3.6.3** To the extent possible and practicable, study groups and their relevant groups shall endeavour to use remote participation technologies as part of efforts to encourage and enable broader participation in the work of the study groups by all Member States, ITU-D Sector Members, Associates and Academia, especially for persons with specific needs, such as persons with disabilities.

**3.6.4** The rapporteur of each study Question shall coordinate and keep up to date a list of focal points from Member States, ITU-D Sector Members, Associates and Academia in order to facilitate the communication and exchange of information on specific matters in the context of study.

# 3.7 Frequency of meetings

**3.7.1** The study groups shall in principle meet at least once a year during the interval between two WTDCs, preferably in the second half of the year so that working parties and rapporteur groups may meet in the first half of the year to prepare the necessary reports and submit them to the parent study group. However, additional meetings may take place with the approval of the Director of BDT, having regard to the priorities laid down by the preceding WTDC and the resources of ITU‑D.

**3.7.2** Working parties and their associated rapporteur groups shall in principle meet twice a year, at least in the period between two WTDCs, the second meeting being held in conjunction with the parent study group. However, additional meetings may be held with the consent of the parent study group and with the approval of the Director, having regard to the priorities laid down by the preceding WTDC and the resources of ITU‑D.

**3.7.3** Working parties should preferably meet back to back (organizing partly overlapping meetings or meeting immediately one after others), although a working party may meet individually if the need arises or if the holding of a meeting is desirable (e.g. in association with seminars).

**3.7.4** To ensure the best possible use of the resources of ITU‑D and of those participating in its work, the Director, in collaboration with the study group chairmen, shall establish and publish a timetable of meetings well in advance (at least [6] months before the meeting), including meetings of study group management teams. The timetable shall take account of such factors as the capacity of the ITU conference services, document requirements for meetings and the need for close coordination with the activities of the other Sectors and other international or regional organizations.

**3.7.5** In the establishment of the work plan, the timetable of meetings must take into account the time required for participating Member States, ITU-D Sector Members and other authorized entities and organizations to prepare contributions and documentation.

**3.7.6** All study groups shall meet sufficiently in advance of WTDC in order to enable the final reports and draft Recommendations to be disseminated within the required deadlines.

# 3.8 Establishment of work plans and preparation of meetings

**3.8.1** After each WTDC, a work plan shall be proposed by each study group chairman and rapporteurs, with the assistance of BDT. The work programme shall take account of the programme of activities and priorities adopted by WTDC. As an informational resource to support the development of the work plans, the Director of BDT shall, through the appropriate BDT staff (e.g. directors of regional offices, focal points), prepare information about all ITU projects relevant to the particular study Question or issue, including those being implemented by the regional offices and in the other Sectors. This information should be provided to the study group chairmen and rapporteurs prior to the development of their work plans so as to allow them to take full advantage of new, existing and ongoing ITU work that could contribute to the study of their Questions.

**3.8.2** The implementation of the work plan will, however, depend to a large extent on the contributions received from Member States, ITU-D Sector Members, Associates and Academia, other authorized entities and organizations, and BDT, as well as on the opinions expressed by participants in the meetings.

**3.8.3** A circular with an agenda of the meeting, a draft work plan and a list of the Questions to be studied shall be prepared by BDT with the help of the chairman of the study group concerned.

**3.8.4** The circular should also include information on study group management team meeting and should be sent to Member States, ITU-D Sector Members, Associates, Academia and other authorized entities and organizations participating in the work of the study group/working party concerned at least three months before the opening of the meeting.

**3.8.5** Details on registration, including a link to the online registration form, shall be included in the circular so that the representatives of the entities concerned can announce their intention to participate in the meeting. The form shall contain the names and addresses of intended participants and an indication of the languages required by participants. The form shall be submitted no less than 45 calendar days prior to the opening of the meeting, in order to secure interpretation and translation of documents in the requested languages. *(Editorial Note: In this case, there is no need to replace the word “form” by the word “template” as proposed by the Rapporteur.)*

# 3.9 Study group management teams

**3.9.1** Each ITU‑D study group has a management team composed of the chairman and vice‑chairmen of the study group, the chairmen and vice-chairmen of working parties and the rapporteurs and vice-rapporteurs. The management team is encouraged to assist chairman on the management role of study group, for example the responsibilities for liaison activities, cooperation and collaboration with other organizations, forums, etc. outside ITU, and promotion of the related study group activities.

**3.9.2** Study group management teams should maintain contact among themselves and with BDT by electronic means to the extent practicable. Appropriate liaison meetings should be arranged, as necessary, with study group chairmen from the other Sectors.

**3.9.3** The ITU‑D study group management team should meet prior to the meeting of the study group, in order to properly organize the coming meeting, including the review and approval of a time‑management plan. To support these meetings and identify any efficiencies, the Director of BDT shall, through the appropriate BDT staff (e.g. directors of regional offices, focal points), provide information to study group rapporteurs on all relevant existing and planned ITU projects, including those being implemented by the regional offices and in the other Sectors.

**3.9.4** A joint management team will be established, chaired by the Director, composed of the ITU‑D study group management teams and the chairman of TDAG.

**3.9.5** The role of the joint management team of the ITU‑D study groups is to:

a) advise BDT management on the estimation of the budget requirements of the study groups;

b) coordinate issues common to study groups;

c) prepare joint proposals to TDAG or other relevant authorized entities and organizations in ITU‑D as required;

d) finalize the dates of subsequent study group meetings;

e) deal with any other issue that may arise.

# 3.10 Preparation of reports

**3.10.1** Reports of the study group's work can be of four major types:

a) Meeting reports

b) Progress reports

c) Output reports

d) Chairman's report to WTDC.

**3.10.2** Meeting reports

**3.10.2.1** Prepared by the study group chairman, the working party chairman or the rapporteur, assisted by BDT, meeting reports shall contain a summary of the outcome of the work. They must also indicate items which require further study at the next meeting or a recommendation for conclusion or completion of the work of a study Question or consolidation with another Question. The reports should also include reference to contributions and/or meeting documents, the main results (including Recommendations and guidelines), directives for future work (including referral of output reports to BDT for incorporation into relevant BDT programme activities as appropriate), planned meetings of working parties, if any, rapporteur's groups and joint rapporteur's groups, and liaison statements endorsed at the study group level.

**3.10.2.2** The report of a study group's first meeting in the study period shall include a list of the chairmen and vice-chairmen of working parties and/or rapporteur's groups, if any, and of any other groups that may have been created, and of the rapporteur and vice‑rapporteurs appointed. This list shall be updated, as required, in subsequent reports.

**3.10.3** Progress reports

**3.10.3.1** The following list of items is suggested for inclusion in progress reports:

a) brief summary of the status and draft outline of the output report;

b) conclusions or titles of reports or Recommendations to be endorsed;

c) status of work with reference to the work plan, including baseline document, if available;

d) draft new or revised reports, guidelines or Recommendations, or reference to source documents containing the Recommendations;

e) draft liaison statements in response to or requesting action by other study groups or organizations;

f) reference to normal or delayed contributions considered part of assigned study and a summary of contributions considered;

g) reference to submissions received in response to liaison statements from other organizations;

h) major issues remaining for resolution and draft agenda of future approved meetings, if any;

i) reference to the list of attendees at meetings held since the last progress report;

j) reference to the list of normal contributions or temporary documents containing the reports of all working party and rapporteur's group meetings since the last progress report.

**3.10.3.2** The progress report may make reference to meeting reports in order to avoid duplication of information.

**3.10.3.3** Progress reports by working parties and rapporteur's groups shall be submitted to the study group for approval.

**3.10.4** Output reports

**3.10.4.1** Such reports represent the expected deliverable, i.e. the principal results of a study. The items to be covered are indicated in the expected output of the Question concerned. Such reports shall normally be limited to a maximum of 50 pages, including annexes and appendices, with relevant electronic references as needed. When reports exceed the 50-page limit, and after consultation with the study group chairman concerned, annexes and appendices may be included without translation when they are considered of particular relevance and provided that the body of the report is within the 50-page limit. All reports shall be translated up to the number of pages agreed upon in the terms of reference for a Question, to the extent possible and within the available budget.

**3.10.4.2** To help maximize the use of study group final output reports, study groups may place final output reports and associated annexes in an online library accessible from the ITU‑D homepage as well as the study group document registry, until the study group decides that they have become outdated. Study group outputs should be incorporated into BDT programme and regional office activities and form part of the implementation of ITU‑D strategic objectives.

**3.10.4.3** To help ascertain the extent to which the Member States, and in particular developing countries, benefit from the outputs of studies and to obtain feedback from the Member States on the results of studies, it would be useful for study group chairmen, with the help of the working party chairmen and Question rapporteurs, to prepare a survey or questionnaire to be sent to Member States before the end of the study period, the results of which will serve to prepare for the next study period. *(Editorial Note: Deletion of words “and to obtain feedback from the Member States on the results of studies” proposed by the Rapporteur was not accepted.)*

**3.10.5** Chairman's reports to WTDC

**3.10.5.1** The chairman's report of each study group to WTDC shall be the responsibility of the chairman of the study group concerned, with the assistance of BDT, and shall include:

a) a summary of the results achieved by the study group during the study period in question, describing the work of the study group and the outcome achieved, including discussion of the ITU‑D strategic objectives that are linked to the study group's activities;

b) reference to any new or revised Recommendations approved by correspondence by Member States during the study period;

c) reference to any Recommendations deleted during the study period;

d) reference to the text of any Recommendations submitted to WTDC for approval;

e) a list of any new or revised Questions proposed for study during the next study period;

f) a list of any Questions proposed for deletion, if any;

g) summary of collaboration between the programmes and regional offices in undertaking the activities of the study group.

**3.10.5.2** The preparation of Recommendations should follow the general practice of the Union. Examples include the recommendations and resolutions of WTDCs. A Recommendation should stand alone. Information may be annexed to the Recommendations, in order to accomplish this. A template Recommendation is set out in

Annex 1 to this resolution.

SECTION 4 – Submission, processing and presentation of contributions

# 4.1 Submission of contributions

**4.1.1** Contributions should be submitted not later than 30 calendar days before the opening of a WTDC, and in any event the submission deadline for all contributions to WTDC shall be no later than 14 calendar days before the opening of the conference to allow for their timely translation and thorough consideration by delegations. BDT shall immediately publish all contributions submitted to WTDC in their original language(s) on the WTDC website, even before their translation into the other official languages of the Union. All contributions shall be published not less than seven calendar days before WTDC.

**4.1.2** The submission of contributions to the meetings of TDAG, the study groups and their relevant groups shall be as follows:

**4.1.2.1** Member States, ITU-D Sector Members, Associates, Academia, other authorized entitiesand organizations and the chairmen and vice-chairmen of study groups, working parties or their relevant groups should submit their contributions to current ITU‑D studies to the Director using the official templates made available online.

**4.1.2.2** Such contributions should, *inter alia*, deal with the results of experience gained in telecommunication development, describe case studies and/or contain proposals for promoting balanced worldwide and regional telecommunication development.

**4.1.2.3** In order to facilitate the study of certain Questions, BDT may submit consolidated documents relevant to the Question or the results of case studies, including information on existing programme and regional office activities. Such documents will be treated as contributions.

**4.1.2.4** In principle, documents submitted to the study groups as contributions should not exceed five pages. For existing texts, cross-references should be used instead of repeating material *in extenso*. Information can be placed in annexes or provided on request as an information document. An example of the template for the submission of contributions is set out in Annex 2 to this resolution.

**4.1.2.5** Contributions should be submitted to BDT using the online form in order to fast-track their processing by minimizing a need for reformatting, without any modification to the content of the text. Any contribution submitted by participants shall be immediately transmitted by BDT to the chairman of the study group and to the rapporteur in accordance with § ‎4.4.1 below.

**4.1.2.6** The collaboration between members of study groups and their relevant groups should be, as far as possible, by electronic means. BDT should provide all study group members with appropriate access to electronic documentation for their work, and promote the provision of appropriate systems and facilities to support the conduct of study group work by electronic means in all the official languages of ITU.

# 4.2 Processing of contributions

Input to study group, working party or rapporteur's group meetings may be of three types:

a) Contributions for action (documents included on the meeting agenda);

b) Contributions for information (information documents not included on the meeting agenda);

c) Liaison statements.

**4.2.1** Contributions for action

**4.2.1.1** All contributions for action received 45 calendar days before a study group/working party and a block of rapporteur group meetings shall be translated and published by BDT not less than seven calendar days before the said meeting. Beyond this 45-day deadline, the contributor may submit the document in the original language and in any official language into which it may have been translated by the author.

**4.2.1.2**  After consultation with the chairman of the study group/working party or rapporteur's group concerned, it may be agreed to accept contributions for action that exceed the five page limit of five pages. In such cases, it may be agreed to publish a summary, which shall be drawn up by the author of the contribution.

**4.2.1.3** All contributions received less than 45 calendar days but at least 12 calendar days before study group/working party or rapporteur group meetings shall be published but not translated. The secretariat shall publish these delayed contributions as soon as possible and not later than three working days after receipt.

**4.2.1.4** Contributions received by the Director of BDT less than 12 calendar days before a study group/working party or rapporteurs group meeting shall not be entered on the agenda. They shall not be distributed but held for the next meeting. Exceptionally, contributions judged to be of extreme importance and urgency might be admitted by the chairman, in consultation with the Director, in derogation to the above deadlines, provided that these contributions are available to participants at the opening of the meeting. For such late contributions, no commitment can be made by the secretariat to ensure the document will be available at the opening of the meeting in all the required languages.

**4.2.1.5** No contributions for action shall be accepted after the opening of the meeting.

**4.2.1.6** The Director should insist that authors follow the rules established for the presentation and form of documents set out in this resolution and annexes and the timing given therein. A reminder should be sent out by the Director whenever appropriate. The Director, with the agreement of the study group chairman, may return to the author any document that does not comply with the general directives set out in this resolution so that it may be brought into line with those directives.

**4.2.2** Contributions for information

**4.2.2.1** Contributions submitted to the meeting for information are those which do not require any specific action under the agenda. They may be referenced during the meeting to which they are submitted, but will not be placed on the agenda or discussed at the meeting. Contributions for information include e.g. descriptive documents submitted by Member States, ITU-D Sector Members, Associates, Academia or other authorized entities and organizations, general policy statements, etc., as well as other documents considered by the study group/working party chairman and/or the rapporteur, in consultation with the author, as being for information. They shall be published in the original language only (and in any other official language into which they may have been translated by the author) and appear under a separate numbering scheme from the contributions submitted for action.

**4.2.2.2** Information documents considered to be of extreme importance might be translated after the meeting if requested by more than 50 per cent of the participants at the meeting, within the budgetary limit.

**4.2.2.3** The secretariat shall prepare a list of information documents that provides summaries of the documents. This list shall be available in all the official languages.

**4.2.3** Liaison statements

Liaison statements are requests for actions or information from other study groups, ITU Sectors, other United Nation Agencies, other relevant organizations or documents that provide a response to the these entities. Liaison statements shall be approved by the chairman of the study group/working party concerned before their transmission to the destination entity. Incoming liaison statements shall not be translated. A template for liaison statements is set out in Annex 4 to this resolution.

# 4.3 Other documents

**4.3.1** Background documents

Reference documents containing only background information relating to issues addressed at the meeting (data, statistics, detailed reports of other organizations, etc.) should be available upon request in the original language only and, if available, also in electronic format.

**4.3.2** Temporary documents

Temporary documents are documents produced during the meeting to assist in the development of the work.

# 4.4 Electronic access

**4.4.1** BDT will post all input and output documents (e.g. contributions, draft Recommendations, liaison statements and reports) as soon as electronic versions of these documents are available.

**4.4.2** A website dedicated to the study groups and their relevant groups shall be constantly updated to include all input and output documents as well as information related to each of the meetings. While the website of the study groups shall be in six languages, those of specific meetings shall be in the languages of the meeting concerned as per § ‎3.8.5 above.

**4.4.3** The website dedicated to the study groups is available in the six languages of the Union on an equal footing and constantly updated.

**4.4.4** The special website shall enable users of the TIES system to have real-time access to temporary and draft documents.

# 4.5 Presentation of contributions

**4.5.1** Contributions for action shall be relevant to the Question or the subject under discussion as agreed by the chairman, the rapporteur for the Question, the coordinator of the study group and the author. Contributions must be clear and concise. Documents that are not directly related to the Questions under study should not be submitted.

**4.5.2** Articles that have been or are to be published in the press should not be submitted to ITU‑D, unless they relate directly to Questions under study and in this case should be fully attributed to their source, including, if possible, the relevant Web-page address.

**4.5.3** Contributions that include passages of an unduly commercial nature shall be deleted by the Director of BDT in agreement with the chairman; the author of the contribution shall be advised of any such deletions.

**4.5.4** The cover page shall indicate the relevant Question(s), agenda item, date, source (originating country and/or organization, address, telephone number, fax number, and e‑mail address of the author or contact person of the submitting entity), as well as the title of the contribution. Indication should also be made as to whether the document is for action or for information and the action required, if any, and an abstract should be provided. A template is set out in Annex 2 to this resolution.

**4.5.5** If existing text needs to be revised, the number of the original contribution shall be indicated and revision marks (track changes) shall be used in the original document.

**4.5.6** Contributions submitted to the meeting for information only (see § ‎4.2.2.1 above) should include a summary prepared by the author. When summaries have not been provided by authors, BDT shall, to the extent possible, prepare such summaries.

SECTION 5 – Proposal and approval of new and revised Questions

# 5.1 Proposal of new and revised Questions

**5.1.1** Proposed new Questions for the ITU Telecommunication Development Sector (ITU‑D) shall be submitted at least two months prior to a WTDC by Member States, ITU-D Sector Members and Academia authorized to participate in the activities of the Sector.

**5.1.2** An ITU‑D study group may also propose new or revised Questions at the initiative of a member of that study group if there is consensus on the subject. These proposals shall be submitted to TDAG for approval. If TDAG rejects or recommends modifications to the draft new or revised Question, the draft Question shall be returned to the relevant study group for reconsideration.

**5.1.3** Each proposed Question should state the reasons for the proposal, the precise objective of the tasks to be performed, the purpose of the study and any contacts to be established with the other Sectors and/or other international or regional organizations. Authors of Questions should use the online template for the submission of new and revised Questions based on the outline found in Annex 3 to this resolution.

# 5.2 Approval of new and revised Questions by WTDC

**5.2.1** Before a WTDC, TDAG shall meet to examine proposed drafts of new or revised Questions and, if necessary, recommend amendments to take account of ITU‑D's general development policy objectives and associated priorities, and to review the reports of the ITU regional preparatory meetings for WTDC.

**5.2.2** At least one month before a WTDC, the Director of BDT shall communicate to Member States and ITU-D Sector Members a list of the Questions proposed for consideration at WTDC, together with any changes recommended by TDAG, and make these available on the ITU website along with the results of surveys referred under § ‎3.10.4.3 above.

**5.2.3** The proposed Questions may be approved by WTDC in accordance with the General Rules of conferences, assemblies and meetings of the Union.

# 5.3 Approval of proposed new and revised Questions between two WTDCs

**5.3.1** Between two WTDCs, Member States, ITU-D Sector Members, Academia and otherauthorized entities and organizations participating in ITU‑D activities may submit proposed new and revised Questions to the study group concerned.

**5.3.2** Each proposed new and revised Question should be based on the template/outline referred to in § ‎5.2.3 above.

**5.3.3** If the study group concerned agrees by consensus to study the proposed new and revised Question and at least four Member States, ITU-D Sector Members or other authorized entities and organizations have committed themselves to supporting the work (e.g. by contributions, provision of rapporteurs or editors and/or hosting of meetings), it shall address the draft text thereof to the Director of BDT with all the necessary information.

**5.3.4** If there is no consensus of the study group meeting, after all efforts to reach consensus have been exhausted, the study group may agree to submit the draft new or revised Question to TDAG in accordance with the decision of the majority of Member States present at the meeting.

**5.3.5** TDAG shall consider drafts new or revised Questions and may approve them. If TDAG recommends modifying the draft new or revised Question, the Question shall be returned to the relevant study group for reconsideration.

**5.3.6** The Director, after approval by TDAG, shall inform Member States, ITU-D Sector Members, Academia and other authorized entities and organizations of the new and revised Questions by circular.

SECTION 6 – Deletion of Questions

# 6.1 Introduction

Study groups may decide to delete Questions. In each individual case, it has to decide which of the following alternative procedures is the most appropriate.

**6.1.1** Deletion of a Question by WTDC.

Upon agreement by the study group, the chairman shall include the request to delete a Question in the report to WTDC, for decision.

**6.1.2** Deletion of a Question between WTDCs

**6.1.2.1** At a study group meeting, it may be agreed, by consensus among those present, to delete a Question, e.g. because work has been terminated. Notification of this agreement, including an explanatory summary about the reasons for the deletion, shall be provided to Member States and ITU-D Sector Members by circular. If a simple majority of the Member States has no objection to the deletion within two months, the deletion comes into force. Otherwise the issue is referred back to the study group.

**6.1.2.2** Those Member States that indicate disapproval are invited to provide their reasons and to indicate the possible changes that would facilitate further study of the Question.

**6.1.2.3** Notification of the result will be given in a circular, and the Telecommunication Development Advisory Group will be informed by a report from the Director of BDT. In addition, the Director shall publish a list of deleted Questions whenever appropriate, but at least once by the middle of a study period.

SECTION 7 – Approval of new or revised Recommendations

# 7.1 Introduction

After adoption at a study group meeting, Member States can approve Recommendations, either by correspondence or at a WTDC.

**7.1.1** When the study of a Question has reached a mature state resulting in a draft new or revised Recommendation, the approval process to be followed is in two stages:

– adoption by the study group concerned (see § ‎7.1.3);

– approval by the Member States (see § 7.‎1.4).

The same process shall be used for the deletion of existing Recommendations.

**7.1.2** In the interest of stability, revision of a Recommendation should not normally be considered for approval within two years, unless the proposed revision complements rather than changes the agreement reached in the previous version.

**7.1.3** Adoption of a new or revised Recommendation by a study group

**7.1.3.1** A study group may consider and adopt draft new or revised Recommendations, when the draft texts have been prepared and made available in all the official languages four weeks in advance of the study group meeting (see § ‎7.1.3.4 below).

**7.1.3.2** A rapporteur's group or any other group which feels that its draft new or revised Recommendation(s) is (are) sufficiently mature can send the text to the study group chairman to start the adoption procedure according to § ‎7.1.3.3 below.

**7.1.3.3** Upon request of the study group chairman, the Director of BDT shall explicitly indicate, in a circular, the intention to seek approval of new or revised Recommendations under this procedure for adoption at a study group meeting. The circular shall include the specific intent of the proposal in summarized form. Reference shall be provided to the document where the text of the draft new or revised Recommendation may be found.

This information shall be distributed to all Member States and ITU-D Sector Members and should be sent by the Director so that it shall be received, so far as practicable, at least two months before the meeting.

**7.1.3.4** Adoption of a draft new or revised Recommendation must be unopposed by any Member State present at the study group meeting.

**7.1.3.5** A Member State objecting to the adoption shall inform the Director and the chairman of the study group of the reasons for objection, and, when the objection cannot be resolved, the Director shall make reasons available to the next meeting of the study group and its relevant working party.

**7.1.3.6** If there is an objection to the text that cannot be resolved and there is no other study group meeting scheduled before WTDC, the chairman of the study group shall forward the text to WTDC.

**7.1.4** Approval of new or revised Recommendations by Member States

**7.1.4.1** When a draft new or revised Recommendation has been adopted by a study group, the text shall be submitted for approval by Member States.

**7.1.4.2** Approval of new or revised Recommendations may be sought:

– at a WTDC;

– by consultation of the Member States as soon as the relevant study group has adopted the text.

**7.1.4.3** At the study group meeting during which a draft is adopted, the study group shall decide to submit the draft new or revised Recommendation for approval, either at the next WTDC or by consultation of the Member States.

**7.1.4.4** When it is decided to submit a draft to WTDC, the study group chairman shall inform and request the Director to take the necessary action to ensure that it is included in the agenda of the conference.

**7.1.4.5** When it is decided to submit a draft for approval by consultation, the conditions and procedures hereafter will apply.

**7.1.4.6** At the study group meeting the decision of the delegations to apply this approval procedure must also be unopposed by any Member State present.

**7.1.4.7** Exceptionally, but only during the study group meeting, delegations may request more time to consider their positions. Unless advised of formal opposition from any of these delegations within a period of one month after the last day of the meeting, the approval process by consultation shall continue. In this case, the draft shall be submitted to the next WTDC for consideration*.*

**7.1.4.8** For the application of the approval procedure by consultation, within one month of the adoption of a draft new or revised Recommendation by a study group, the Director shall request Member States to indicate within three months whether they approve or do not approve the proposal. This request shall be accompanied by the complete final text, in the official languages, of the proposed new or revised Recommendation.

**7.1.4.9** The Director shall also advise ITU-D Sector Members participating in the work of the relevant study group under the provisions of Article 19 of the Convention that Member States are being asked to respond to a consultation on a proposed new or revised Recommendation, but only Member States are entitled to respond. This advice should be accompanied by the complete final texts, for information only.

**7.1.4.10** If two thirds or more of the replies from Member States indicate approval, the proposal shall be accepted. If the proposal is not accepted, it shall be referred back to the study group.

**7.1.4.11** Any comments received along with responses to the consultation shall be collected by the Director and submitted to the study group for consideration.

**7.1.4.12** Those Member States which indicate that they do not approve are encouraged to state their reasons and to participate in the future consideration by the study group and its relevant groups.

**7.1.4.13** The Director shall promptly notify, by circular, the results of the above consultation approval procedure.

**7.1.4.14** Should minor, purely editorial amendments or correction of evident oversights or inconsistencies in the text as presented for approval be necessary, the Director may correct these with the approval of the chairman of the relevant study group.

**7.1.4.15** ITU shall publish the approved new or revised Recommendations in the official languages as soon as practicable.

# 7.3 Reservations

If a delegation elects not to oppose the approval of a Recommendation but wishes to enter reservations on one or more aspects, such reservations shall be mentioned in a concise note appended to the text of the Recommendation concerned.

SECTION 8 – Deletion of Recommendations

*(Editorial Note: Currently there is no procedure for deletion of Recommendations.)*

**8.1** Each Study Group is encouraged to review the maintained Recommendations and, if they are found no longer necessary, should propose their deletion. Decisions to delete Recommendations should take into account the status of telecommunication technology, which may differ from country to country and between Regions. Therefore, even if some administrations are in favour of suppressing an old Recommendation, technical/operational requirements addressed in that Recommendation may still be important for some other administrations.

**8.2** The deletion of existing Recommendations shall follow a two-stage process:

– agreement to the deletion by a Study Group if no delegation representing a Member State attending the meeting opposes the deletion;

– following this agreement to delete, approval by Member States, by consultation.

**8.3** WTDC may also delete existing Recommendations considering proposals by the membership.

SECTION 9 – Support to the study groups and their relevant groups

**9.1** The Director of BDT should ensure that, within the limits of existing budgetary resources, the study groups and their relevant groups have appropriate support to conduct their work programmes as outlined in the terms of reference and as envisioned by the World Telecommunication Development Conference's work plan for the Sector. In particular, support may be provided in the following forms:

a) appropriate administrative and professional staff support from BDT and the other two Bureaux and the General Secretariat, as appropriate;

b) contracting of outside expertise, as necessary;

c) coordination with relevant regional and subregional organizations.

SECTION 10 – Other groups

**10.1** As far as applicable, the same rules of procedure for study groups in this resolution should also apply to other groups referred to in Nos. 209A and 209B of the Convention and their meetings, for example with respect to the submission of contributions. However, these groups shall not adopt Questions nor deal with Recommendations.

SECTION 11 – Telecommunication Development Advisory Group

*(Editorial Note: Text of the provision below was modified using precise wording from Nos. 215C – 215J of Article 17A – Telecommunication Development Advisory Group of the Convention.)*

**11.1** In accordance with No. 215C of the Convention, TDAG shall be open to representatives of administrations of Member States and representatives of ITU-D Sector Members of and to chairmen and vice‑chairmen of the study groups and other groups, and will act through the Director.

According to Article 17A of the Convention its principal duties are:

1. to review priorities, programmes, operations, financial matters and strategies in ITU‑D;
2. to review the implementation of the operational plan of the preceding period in order to identify areas in which BDT has not achieved or was not able to achieve the objectives laid down in that plan, and advise the Director BDT on the necessary corrective measures;
3. to review progress in the implementation of the programme of work established under No. 209 of the Convention;
4. to provide guidelines for the work of the study groups;
5. , ;;to recommend measures, *inter alia*, to foster cooperation and coordination with the Radiocommunication Sector, the Telecommunication Standardization Sector and the General Secretariat, as well as with other relevant development and financial institutions;
6. to prepare a report for the Director of BDT indicating action in respect of the above items.

WTDC Resolution 24 also assigned to TDAG several specific matters between two consecutive WTDCs including among others review the relationship between the ITU-D objectives outlined in the strategic plan for the Union and the budgetary appropriations available for activities, particularly programmes and regional initiatives, with a view to recommending any measures necessary to ensure the efficient and effective delivery of the principal products and services (outputs) of the Sector; review the implementation of the rolling four-year operational plan for ITU-D and provide guidance to BDT on the elaboration of the draft ITU-D operational plan to be approved by the following ITU Council session, etc.

**11.2** A world telecommunication development conference shall appoint the TDAG bureau, comprising the chairman and the vice-chairmen of TDAG. The chairmen of ITU‑D study groups are members of the TDAG bureau.

**11.3** In accordance with WTDC Resolution 61 in appointing the chairman and the vice‑chairmen, particular consideration shall be given to the requirements of competence and the need to promote gender balance in leadership positions and equitable geographical distribution, and to the need to promote more efficient participation by developing countries.

**11.4** WTDC may assign temporary authority to TDAG to consider and act on matters specified by WTDC. TDAG may consult with the Director on these matters, if necessary. WTDC should assure itself that the special functions entrusted to TDAG do not require financial expenses exceeding the ITU‑D budget. The report on TDAG activity on the fulfilment of specific functions shall be submitted to the next WTDC. Such authority shall terminate when the following WTDC meets, although WTDC may decide to extend it for a designated period.

**11.5** TDAG shall hold regular scheduled meetings, included in the ITU‑D timetable of meetings. Physical meetings should take place least once a year. The timing of meetings should be such as to allow TDAG to effectively review the draft operational plan before its adoption and implementation. TDAG meetings should not take place in conjunction with the study group meetings. Meetings of the advisory groups of the three Sectors of the Union should preferably be held consecutively whenever possible.

**11.** In the interest of minimizing the length and costs of the meetings, the chairman of TDAG should collaborate with the Director in making appropriate advance preparation, for example by identifying the major issues for discussion.

**11.7** In general, the same rules of procedure as for study groups in this resolution should also apply to TDAG and its meetings, for example in respect of the submission of contributions. However, at the discretion of the chairman, written proposals may be submitted during the TDAG meeting, provided they are based on ongoing discussions taking place during the meeting and are intended to assist in resolving conflicting views which exist during the meeting.

**11.8** TheTDAG bureau should maintain contact among themselves and with BDT by electronic means to the extent practicable and meet not less than once per year, including one meeting prior to the meeting of TDAG, in order to properly organize the coming meeting, including the review and approval of a time‑management plan.

**11.9** In order to facilitate its task, TDAG may complement these working procedures with additional procedures. It can establish other groups to study a particular topic, where necessary, as provided in Resolution 24 of WTDC and within existing financial resources.

**11.10** After each TDAG meeting, a concise summary of conclusions shall be drawn up by the secretariat to be distributed in accordance with normal ITU‑D procedures. It should contain only TDAG proposals, recommendations and conclusions in respect to the above items.

**11.11** In accordance with No. 215JA of the Convention, at its last meeting prior to WTDC, TDAG shall prepare a report for WTDC. This report should summarize TDAG's activities on the matters assigned to it by WTDC, including its work to facilitate linkages to the strategic and operational plans, and offer advice on allocation of work, proposals on ITU‑D working methods, strategies and relations with other relevant bodies inside and outside ITU, as appropriate. Likewise, it shall provide advice on the implementation and evaluation of the regional initiatives. This report shall be transmitted to the Director for submission to the conference.

SECTION 12 – Regional and world meetings of the Sector

**12.1** In general, the same working methods found in this resolution, and in particular those relating to the submission and processing of contributions, apply, *mutatis mutandis*, to other regional and world meetings of the Sector, with the exception of those referred to in Article 22 of the Constitution and Article 16 of the Convention.

Annex 1 to Resolution 1 (Rev. Buenos-Aires, 2017)

Template for drafting Recommendations

The ITU Telecommunication Development Sector (ITU‑D) (general terminology applicable to all Recommendations),

The World Telecommunication Development Conference (terminology only applicable to Recommendations approved at a WTDC),

considering

This section should contain various general background references giving the reasons for the study. The references should normally refer to ITU documents and/or resolutions.

recognizing

This section should contain specific factual background statements such as "the sovereign right of each Member State" or studies which have formed a basis for the work.

taking into account

This section should detail other factors that have to be considered, such as national laws and regulations, regional policy decisions and other applicable global issues.

noting

This section should indicate generally accepted items or information that support the recommendation.

convinced

This section should contain details of factors that form the basis of the Recommendation. These could include objectives of government regulatory policy, choice of financing sources, ensuring fair competition, etc.

recommends

This section should contain a general sentence, leading into detailed action points:

specific action point

specific action point

specific action point

etc.

Note that the above list of *action verbs* is not exhaustive. Other *action verbs* may be used when appropriate. Existing Recommendations provide examples.

Annex 2 to Resolution 1 (Rev. Buenos-Aires, 2017)

Template for submission of contributions for action/for information[[5]](#footnote-5)1

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Venue and date of meeting** | **Document No./Study Group-E** |
| **Date** |
| **Original language** |
|  |  | **FOR ACTION****(Place on the Agenda)** | Indicate which is appropriate |
| **FOR INFORMATION****(For Reference only;not to be discussed)** |
| **QUESTION:** |  |
| **SOURCE:** |  |
| **TITLE:** |  |
| **Revision to previous contribution (Yes/No)**If yes, please indicate the document number*Any changes in a previous text should be indicated with revision marks (track changes)* |
| **Action required**Please indicate what is expected from the meeting(for contributions submitted for action only) |
| **Abstract** |
| Include here a summary of a few lines outlining your contribution |
|  |
| Start your document on the following page(maximum 4 pages) |
| Contact: Name of author submitting the contribution:Phone number: E-mail:  |

Annex 3 to Resolution 1 (Rev. buenos-aIRES, 2017)

Template/outline for proposed Questions and issues
for study and consideration by ITU‑D

\* *Information in italics describes the information that should be provided by the author under each heading.*

**Title of Question or issue** (the title replaces this heading)

# 1 Statement of the situation or problem *(the notes follow these headings)*

\* Provide an overall general description of the situation or problem which is proposed for study, with specific focus on:

– *the implications for developing countries and LDCs;*

*– gender perspective; and*

*– how a solution will benefit these countries. Indicate why the problem or situation warrants study at this time.*

# 2 Question or issue for study

\* State the Question or issue that is proposed for study, expressed as clearly as possible. The tasks should be tightly focused.

# 3 Expected output

\* Provide a detailed description of the expected output of the study. This should include a general indication of the organizational level or status of those who are expected to use and to benefit from the output. Outputs may include a set of actions, activities, work and work products specific to the work of the study Question, including those undertaken pursuant to programmes and regional initiatives that are relevant to the work of the Question (e.g. documented best practices, guidelines, workshops, capacity-building events, seminars, etc.). More specifically, study outputs may promote gender equality and greater access by women to communications technologies and as well as to employment, health and education.

# 4 Timing

\* Indicate the required timing, noting that the urgency of the output will influence both the method used to carry out the study and the depth and breadth of the study. Outputs and the work of a Question may be completed in less than the four-year study cycle.

# 5 Proposers/sponsors

\* Identify by organization and contact point those proposing and supporting the study.

# 6 Sources of input

\* Indicate what types of organizations are expected to provide contributions to further the work, e.g. Member States, ITU-D Sector Members, Associates, other UN agencies, regional groups, other ITU Sectors, BDT focal points, as appropriate, etc.

\* Also include any other information, including potentially useful resources, such as expert organizations or stakeholders, that will be helpful to those responsible for carrying out the study.

# 7 Target audience

\* Indicate expected types of target audience, by noting all relevant points on the matrix which follows:

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
|  | Developed countries | Developing countries[[6]](#footnote-6)\* |
| Telecom policy-makers | \* | \* |
| Telecom regulators | \* | \* |
| Service providers/operators | \* | \* |
| Manufacturers | \* | \* |
| ITU‑D programme  |  |  |

Where appropriate, please provide explanatory notes as to why certain matrix points were included or excluded.

a) Target audience – Who specifically will use the output

\* Indicate as precisely as possible which individuals/groups/regions within the target organizations will use the output. In addition, indicate as precisely as possible which ITU‑D programmes, regional initiatives and strategic objectives the work of the study Question could/will be relevant to, and how the results of the work of the study Question can/could be used to fulfil the objectives of those relevant programmes, regional initiatives and strategic objectives.

b) Proposed methods for the implementation of the results

\* In the author's opinion, how should the results of this work best be distributed to and used by the target audience and the specified relevant programmes and/or regional offices.

# 8 Proposed methods of handling the Question or issue

a) How?

\* Indicate the suggested handling of the proposed Question or issue

1) Within a study group:

– Question (over a multi-year study period) 🞏

2) Within regular BDT activity (*indicate which programmes, activities,
projects, etc. will be involved in the work of the study Question*):

– Programmes 🞏

– Projects 🞏

– Expert consultants 🞏

– Regional offices 🞏

3) In other ways – *describe* (e.g. regional, within other organizations
with expertise, jointly with other organizations, etc.) 🞏

b) Why?

\* Explain why you selected the alternative under a) above.

# 9 Coordination and collaboration

\* Include, inter alia, the requirements for coordination of the study with all of:

– regular ITU‑D activities (including those of the regional offices);

– other study group Questions or issues;

– regional organizations, as appropriate;

– work in progress in the other ITU Sectors;

– expert organizations or stakeholders, as appropriate.

\* The Director shall, through the appropriate BDT staff (e.g. directors of regional offices, focal points), provide information to rapporteurs on all relevant ITU projects in the regions. This information should be provided to the meetings of the rapporteurs when work of the programmes and regional offices is in the planning stages and when it is completed.

\* Identify which programmes, regional initiatives and strategic objectives are related to the work of the Question and list specific expectations for collaboration with the programmes and regional offices.

# 10 BDT programme link

\* Note the programme and regional initiatives of the Action Plan that would best contribute to, help facilitate and make use of the outputs and results of this Question, and list specific expectations for collaboration with the programmes and regional offices.

# 11 Other relevant information

\* Include any other information that will be helpful in establishing how this Question or issue should best be studied, and on what schedule.

Annex 4 to Resolution 1 (Rev. Buenos-Aires, 2017)

Template for liaison statements

Information to be included in the liaison statement:

1) List the appropriate Question numbers of the originating and destination study groups.

2) Identify the study group or rapporteur's group meeting at which the liaison was prepared.

3) Include a concise and clear subject. If this is in reply to a liaison statement, make this clear, e.g. "Reply to the liaison statement from (*source and date*) concerning ...".

4) Identify the study group(s), if known, or other organizations to which sent.

NOTE – Can be sent to more than one organization.

5) Indicate the level of approval of such liaison statement, e.g. study group, or state that the liaison statement has been agreed at a rapporteur's group meeting.

6) Indicate if the liaison statement is sent for action or comments, or for information only.

NOTE – If sent to more than one organization, indicate this for each one.

7) If action is requested, indicate the date by which a reply is required.

8) Include the name and address of the contact person.

NOTE – The text of the liaison statement should be concise and clear using a minimum of jargon.

NOTE – Liaison statements among ITU‑D groups should be discouraged and problems should be solved through informal contacts.

Example of a liaison statement:

QUESTIONS: A/1 of ITU‑D Study Group 1 and B/2 of ITU‑D Study Group 2

SOURCE: Chairman of ITU‑D Study Group X or Rapporteur's Group for Question B/2

MEETING: Geneva, September 2014

SUBJECT: Request for information/comments by [deadline when it is an outgoing liaison statement] – Reply to liaison statement from ITU‑R/ITU‑T WP 1/4

CONTACT: Name of chairman or rapporteur for Question [number]
Tel./fax/e-mail

Annex 5 to Resolution 1 (Rev. buenos-aires, 2017)

Rapporteur's checklist

1 Establish a work plan in consultation with the group of collaborators. The work plan should be reviewed periodically by the study group and contain the following:

– list of tasks to be completed;

– target dates for milestones;

– results anticipated, including titles of output documents;

– liaison required with other groups, and schedules for liaisons, if known;

– proposed meeting(s) of rapporteur's group and estimated dates, with request for interpretation, if any.

2 Adopt work methods appropriate to the group. Use of electronic document handling (EDH), electronic and facsimile mail to exchange views is strongly encouraged.

3 Act as chairman at all meetings of the group of collaborators. If special meetings of the group of collaborators are necessary, give appropriate advance notice.

4 Delegate portions of the work to vice-rapporteurs or other collaborators, depending on the workload.

5 Keep the study group management team regularly informed of the work progress. In case no progress can be reported on a given Question between two study group meetings, the rapporteur should nevertheless submit a report indicating the possible reasons for the lack of progress. To allow the chairman and BDT to take the necessary steps for the work to be done on the Question, reports should be submitted at least two months before the study group meeting.

6 Keep the study group informed of the progress of work through reports to study group meetings. The reports should be in the form of white contributions (when substantial progress has been made such as completion of draft Recommendations or a report) or temporary documents.

7 The progress report mentioned in §§ 5 and 6 above should, as far as applicable, comply with the format given in § 3.10.3 of section 3 of this resolution.

8 Ensure that liaison statements are submitted as soon as possible after all meetings, with copies to the study group chairmen and BDT. Liaison statements must contain the information described on the *Template for liaison statements* described in Annex 4 to this resolution. BDT may provide assistance in distributing the liaison statements.

9 Oversee the quality of texts up to and including the final text submitted for approval.

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1. This document was supported by the Working Group meeting of the RCC International Cooperation Commission (ICC) on February 16, 2017. [↑](#footnote-ref-1)
2. 1 The Asia-Pacific Telecommunity (APT), the African Telecommunications Union (ATU), the European Conference of Postal and Telecommunications Administrations (CEPT), the Inter-American Telecommunication Commission (CITEL), the Council of [Arab Ministers of Telecommunications and Information](http://www.lasportal.org/en/councils/ministerialcouncil/Pages/MCouncilAbout.aspx?RID=13" \o ") of League of Arab States (LAS), the Regional Commonwealth in the Field of Communications (RCC). [↑](#footnote-ref-2)
3. 1 These include colleges, institutes, universities and associated research institutions interested in telecommunication/ICT development. [↑](#footnote-ref-3)
4. 2 These include the least developed countries, small island developing states, landlocked developing countries and countries with economies in transition. [↑](#footnote-ref-4)
5. 1 This template outlines the information to be submitted and the format of the contribution. The contribution is, however, submitted through an online template. [↑](#footnote-ref-5)
6. \* These include the least developed countries, small island developing states, landlocked developing countries and countries with economies in transition. [↑](#footnote-ref-6)