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| PLENARY MEETING | | **Addendum 17 to Document WTDC-17/24-E** |
|  | | **22 September 2017** |
|  | | **Original: English** |
| Member States of the European Conference of Postal and Telecommunications Administrations | | |
| PROPOSALS FOR THE WORK OF THE CONFERENCE | | |
| STREAMLINING ITU ACTIVITIES IN THE AREA OF TARIFFS, TELECOMMUNICATION/ICT ECONOMIC AND POLICY ISSUES | | |
|  | | |
| **Priority area:** - Resolutions and recommendations  **Summary:**  This documents deals with the relation between ITU-D and ITU-T activities in the field of economic, policy, regulatory and tariff aspects of telecommunication/ICT networks and services. Countries at WTSA-16 expressed their preference dealing with these matters in ITU-T Study Group 3 and to elaborate appropriate ITU-T Recommendations.  As a consequence the distribution of work and the responsibilities for matters related to telecommunication/ICT policy and regulation between the Sectors need to be clearly determined.  **Expected results:**  Considering decisions taken at WTSA-16 and in order to avoid duplication and to ensure efficient use of the Union’s and the Membership’s resources the distribution of work between ITU-D and ITU-T study groups shall be aligned accordingly for the present study period.  An amendment of ITU-D Study Group 1 scope is proposed to align future work (Questions) with state of the art practices.  **References:**  Resolution 2 (Rev. Dubai, 2014) | | |

# Introduction

The up-dated mandate of **ITU-T Study Group 3** focuses on ***tariff and accounting principles*** **and** ***international telecommunication/ICT economic and policy issues***. The idea of the amended title for ITU-T Study Group 3 was **to decouple tariff and accounting from economic and policy issues** – thus creating room for studying economic and policy issues for international telecommunications in general, rather than related to tariff and accounting.

The scope of **ITU-D Study Group 1** on "***Enabling environment for the development of telecommunications/ICTs***" according to Resolution 2 is among others

* National telecommunication/ICT policy, regulatory, technical and strategy development which best enables countries to benefit from the impetus of telecommunications/ICTs, including broadband, cloud computing and consumer protection, as an engine for sustainable growth.
* Economic policies and methods of determining costs of services related to national telecommunications/ICTs.

With regard to economics and tariffs the separation between international telecommunication services and national telecommunication services seems not to reflect recent market trends. For example, many service providers offer flat rate tariffs for voice and data that include domestic use and international roaming, either at regional level or at worldwide level or flat rates for fixed phone lines that include international calls.

# Potential duplication

The Table below indicates the similarity of certain Questions for ITU-T Study Group 3 and ITU-D Study Group 1.

| **Question number** | **ITU-T Study Group 3 Question title** | **Question number** | ***Proposed* ITU-D Study Group 1 Question title[[1]](#footnote-1)** |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Q3/3 | Study of economic and policy factors relevant to the efficient provision of international telecommunication services | Q4/1 | ***Policies, economics and tariff methods for applications and services on communication networks*** |
| Q4/3 | Regional studies for the development of cost models together with related economic and policy issues |
| Q5/3 | Terms and definitions for Recommendations dealing with tariff and accounting principles together with related economic and policy issues |
| Q9/3 | Economic and regulatory impact of the Internet, convergence (services or infrastructure) and new services, such as over the top (OTT), on international telecommunication services and networks | ***Merge Q1/1 and Q2/1*** | | |
| Q1/1 | Policy, regulatory and technical aspects of the migration from existing networks to broadband networks in developing countries, including next-generation networks, m-services, OTT services and the implementation of IPv6 | |
| Q2/1 | Broadband access technologies, including IMT, for developing countries | |
| Q11/3 | Economic and policy aspects of big data and digital identity in international telecommunications services and networks | Q3/1 | Access to cloud computing: challenges and opportunities for developing countries – ***include big data in the Question*** | |
|  | See Point of guidance to ITU-T Study Group 3 mentioning protection of consumers | Q6/1 | ***Consumer protection, challenges and opportunities in the digital economy/area*** | |

New topics were discussed for ITU-D Study Group 1, but no agreement was reached - i.e. mobile financial services, regulatory models for the Digital Economy (OTT, OSPs) and Internet of Things (IoT) regulatory matters. ITU-T has meanwhile established a Focus Group on Digital Currency including Digital Fiat Currency (FG DFC) and a Focus Group on Application of Distributed Ledger Technology (FG DLT).

A number of ITU-D Study Group 1 topics could also be dealt with in ITU-T Study Group 3 and vice-versa. This applies to Q1/1, Q3/1, Q4/1 and Q6/1.

At WTSA-16 it has been argued that policy and tariff experts gather in ITU-T Study Group 3 rather than in ITU-D Study Group 1 and that only ITU-T Study Group 3 can elaborate Recommendations in the respective policy and regulatory fields. Many countries present at WTSA-16 believe that ITU-D is not in the position to develop the policy recommendations (“standards”) that countries require as “core legislation” in establishing their domestic telecommunication legislation.

However it is ITU-D that is involved in disseminating telecommunication/ICT services *regulatory*, *tariff* *and accounting*, and *economic* matters in general through meetings and conferences and in particular through projects or through direct assistance to Member States.

Therefore, and in accordance with the mandate of ITU-D it is crucial that a number of topics – as identified in the table above – are coordinated properly across the sector boundaries in the spirit of cooperation. The scarce resources of the Union and of the Membership do not allow for competition between Sectors to who will fulfill best the needs expressed by countries.

# Conclusion

One need to avoid replication in ITU-D study groups of those topics already dealt with in ITU-T or already incorporated in ITU-D’s Programs or Initiatives.

WTSA-16 decision regarding ITU-T Study Group 3 stands.In order to avoid duplication and to increase the Unions efficiency, ITU-D Study Group 1 shall at present refrain from further dealing with Q4/1 during the coming study period. Close coordination is required and ITU-T Study Group 3 shall be provided with an appropriate liaison statement(s) in order to include specific economic issues from ITU-D into its work program or this issue could be dealt with by creation of new joint rapporteur groups or creating a meeting colocation.

With regard to Q2/1, Q3/1 and Q6/1 close coordination with ITU-T is required in order to determine exactly the work items that shall be dealt with either in ITU-D or in ITU-T.

The following amendments are proposed to the annexes of ITU-D Resolution 2:

RESOLUTION 2 (REV. DUBAI, 2014)

Establishment of study groups

**MOD** ECP/24A17/1

Annex 1 to Resolution 2 (Rev. bUENOS aIRES; 2017)

Scope of ITU‑D study groups

# 1 Study Group 1

**Enabling environment for the development of telecommunications/ICTs**

– Telecommunication /ICT policy, regulatory, technical and strategy development which best enables countries to benefit from the impetus of telecommunications/ICTs, including broadband, cloud computing and consumer protection, as an engine for sustainable growth

– Access to telecommunications/ICTs for rural and remote areas

– Access to telecommunication/ICT services by persons with disabilities and specific needs

– The needs of developing countries in spectrum management, including the ongoing transition from analogue to digital terrestrial television broadcasting and the use of the digital dividend, in addition to any future digital switchover.

# 2 Study Group 2

**ICT applications, cybersecurity, emergency telecommunications and climate-change adaptation**

– Services and applications supported by telecommunications/ICTs

– Building confidence and security in the use of ICTs

– The use of telecommunications/ICTs in mitigating the impact of climate change on developing countries, and for natural disaster preparedness, mitigation and relief, as well as conformance and interoperability testing

– Human exposure to electromagnetic fields and safe disposal of electronic waste

– The implementation of telecommunications/ICTs, taking into account the results of the studies carried out by ITU‑T and ITU‑R, and the priorities of developing countries.

**MOD** ECP/24A17/2

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

Questions assigned by the World Telecommunication   
Development Conference to ITU‑D study groups

# Study Group 1

– **Question 1/1:** Policy, regulatory and technical aspects of the migration from existing networks to broadband networks in developing countries, including next-generation networks, IMT, m-services, OTT services and the implementation of IPv6

– **Question 3/1:** Access to cloud computing, big data: Challenges and opportunities for developing countries

– **Question 4/1:** Economic policies and methods of determining the costs of services related to national telecommunication/ICT networks, including next-generation networks

– **Question 5/1:** Telecommunications/ICTs for rural and remote areas

– **Question 6/1:** Consumer protection, challenges and opportunities in the digital economy/area

– **Question 7/1:** Access to telecommunication/ICT services by persons with disabilities and with specific needs

– **Question 8/1:** Examination of strategies and methods of migration from analogue to digital terrestrial broadcasting and implementation of new services

**Resolution 9:** Participation of countries, particularly developing countries, in spectrum management

# Study Group 2

Questions related to ICT applications and cybersecurity

– **Question 1/2:** Creating the smart society: Social and economic development through ICT applications

– **Question 2/2:** Information and telecommunications/ICTs for e-health

– **Question 3/2:** Securing information and communication networks: Best practices for developing a culture of cybersecurity

– **Question 4/2:** Assistance to developing countries for implementing conformance and interoperability programmes

Questions related to climate change, environment and emergency telecommunications

– **Question 5/2:** Utilization of telecommunications/ICTs for disaster preparedness, mitigation and response

– **Question 6/2:** ICT and climate change

– **Question 7/2:** Strategies and policies concerning human exposure to electromagnetic fields

– **Question 8/2:** Strategies and policies for the proper disposal or reuse of telecommunication/ICT waste material

– **Question 9/2:** Identification of study topics in the ITU‑T and ITU‑R study groups which are of particular interest to developing countries

NOTE – The full definition of the Questions can be found in section 5 of the Dubai Action Plan.

**Reasons:** To avoid unnecessary duplication of work between ITU-D and ITU-T

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1. Information extracted from ITU-D Ad hoc Group meeting report, surveys, Rapporteur Group reports [↑](#footnote-ref-1)