|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| C:\Users\ponder\AppData\Local\Microsoft\Windows\Temporary Internet Files\Content.Word\BDT-25th_anniversary_2017-Logo_411959-3_transparent.png | **World Telecommunication Development Conference 2017 (WTDC-17)**  **Buenos Aires, Argentina, 9-20 October 2017** | C:\Users\ponder\AppData\Local\Microsoft\Windows\Temporary Internet Files\Content.Word\BDT-25th_anniversary_2017-Logo_411959-1_transparent.png |
|  | |  |
| PLENARY MEETING | | **Document WTDC-17/33-E** |
|  | | **8 September 2017** |
|  | | **Original: English** |
| Brazil (Federative Republic of)/Mexico | | |
| PROPOSED REVISIONS TO THE TERMS OF REFERENCE OF QUESTION 4/2 | | |
|  | | |
|  | | |
| **Priority area:** - Study Group Questions  **Summary:**  Brazil and Mexico submit this contribution regarding the revision of the terms of reference of Question 4/2, in order to include other relevant discussions related to, for example, the impact of emerging technologies such as Internet of Things (IoT) can have in the conformance and interoperability efforts of ITU, as well as combating counterfeit, sub-standard, and tampered devices.  **Expected results:**  Brazil and Mexico invite the delegations to evaluate the contribution in the discussion for the revision of the Terms of Reference for Question 4/2.  **References:**  Question 4/2 | | |

STUDY GROUP 2

**MOD** B/MEX/33/1

QUESTION 4/2

Assistance to developing countries for implementing  
conformance and interoperability programmes

# 1 Statement of the situation or problem

Inclusion of an ITU‑D study group Question on this matter provides an effective way to further the aims of Resolution 47 (Rev. Buenos Aires, 2017) of the World telecommunication Development Conference (WTDC), Resolution 76 (Rev. Hammamet, 2016) of the World telecommunication Standardization Assembly (WTSA) and Resolution 177 (Dubai, 2014) of the Plenipotentiary Conference.

According to the Dubai Declaration, widespread conformity and interoperability of telecommunication / ICT equipment and systems allow increased market opportunities as well as the reliability and integration of world trade, which can be achieved through Programs, policies and decisions.

Member States and ITU‑D Sector Members can assist and guide each other by conducting studies, building tools to bridge the standardization gap, and navigating issues related to matters raised in the above-mentioned resolutions. ITU‑D can harness the energy of its membership to examine these important issues.

A scenario where the successful adoption of Internet of Things (IoT) is true, billions of ICT devices an system play a vital role in society demanding increasing efforts for an organized ICT market that must take into consideration: Safety, Quality, Spectrum environment free of harmful interference, limits to the NRI emission of devices, interoperability, Sustainability, Reliability , Resilience, and Affordability.

In this regard, to facilitate safe usage of products and services anywhere in the world, regardless of who is the manufacturer or service provider, it is crucial that products and services be developed in accordance with relevant international standards, regulations and other specifications, and that their compliance be tested.

The Question will ultimately contribute to international community's effort to achieving the Sustainable Development Goals (SDG), especially those targets on Infrastructure[[1]](#footnote-1) (namely 9.1, 9.a, 9.b, and 9.c) in adopting eco‑friendly set of harmonized standards, since the countries can, through conformance and interoperability (C&I) regime instruments, better control and authenticate products.

Conformity assessment increases the probability of interoperability, i.e. equipment built by different manufacturers being capable of communicating successfully. In addition, it helps to ensure that products and services are delivered according to expectations. Conformity assessment builds consumer trust and confidence in tested products and consequently strengthens the business environment and, thanks to interoperability, the economy benefits from business stability, scalability and cost reduction of systems, equipment and tariffs.

To increase the benefits of C&I, many countries have adopted harmonized C&I regimes at both national and bi-/multilateral level. However, some developing countries have not yet done so because of a number of major challenges, such as the lack of appropriate/adequate infrastructure and technology development to be in a position to test or to recognize tested ICT equipment (e.g. accredited laboratories).

Availability of high-quality, high-performing products will accelerate widespread deployment of the infrastructure, technologies and associated services, allowing people to access the information society regardless of their location or chosen device, and contributing to implementing theSDGs.

Also, simplifying the conformity assessment process will facilitate the homologation of products destined for telecommunications, will give legal certainty to users on compliance in the products they acquire; and will promote the adoption of the best technological standards and measures to protect intellectual property.

In addition, tis will contribute to raise the quality standards of the services to make them more efficient for the benefit of the population.

# 2 Question or issue for study

The Question is established in ITU‑D Study Group 2 to examine issues related to ICT Equipment and System, a key component for spreading ICT networks, access, services and application. The work of the Question takesinto account :

2.1 In close collaboration with the relevant BDT programme(s), identify and assess what the challenges, priorities and problems are for countries, subregions or regions with respect to the application of ITU‑T Recommendations, approaches to meeting the confidence needs associated with equipment conformance to ITU Recommendations.

2.2 Identifying critical issues/priority issues in countries, subregions or regions, and identifying related best practices.

2.3 Examine how information transfer, know-how, training and institutional and human capacity development can strengthen the ability of developing countries to reduce risks associated with low-quality equipment, and equipment interoperability issues. Examine effective information-sharing systems and best practices to assist in this work.

2.4 Elaborate a methodology for the implementation of this Question, in particular gathering evidence and information regarding current best practices being adopted to create C&I programmes, taking into consideration progress achieved by the all ITU Sectors in this regard.

2.5 Techniques designed to promote harmonization of C&I regimes, to improve regional integration and to contribute to bridging the standardization gap, consequently reducing the digital divide.

2.6 Information regarding the establishment of mutual recognition agreements (MRA) between countries. Guidance on concepts and procedures to establish and manage MRAs.

2.7 Techniques on market surveillance and maintenance of C&I regimes in order to guarantee the credibility and sustainability of the conformance assessment scheme put in place.

2.8 Techniques and best practices on combating counterfeit, sub-standard, and tampered devices:

- to prepare and document examples of best practices on limiting counterfeit and tampered devices, for distribution to ITU Member States and Sector Members;

- to prepare guidelines, methodologies and publications to assist Member States in identifying counterfeit and tampered devices and methods of increasing public awareness to restrict trade in these devices, as well as the best ways of limiting them;

- to study the impact of counterfeit and tampered telecommunication/ICT devices being transported to developing countries;

- to continue studying safe ways of disposing of the harmful e‑waste from the counterfeit and tampered devices currently in circulation in the world.

2.9 Access the impact of the exponential increase of ICT equipment (IoT) and provide recommendation to ITU-D Member for readiness.

# 3 Expected output

In the next ITU‑D study period 2018-2022, studies of various issues related to conformity and interoperability are to be reported, including a description of the technical, legislative and regulatory framework that would be needed to implement appropriate C&I programmes by developing countries.

Specifically, the following outputs are envisaged:

a) Review of guidelines and best practices on technical, legal and regulatory aspects of a C&I regime

b) Feasibility studies regarding the establishment of laboratories in different C&I domains

c) Guidance on the framework and procedures to establish technical collaboration on C&I and infrastructure sharing

d) Questionnaire to collect and update the database of the current C&I regimes status established at national, regional or global levels

e) Development of a methodology for assessing the status of C&I regimes in place in the regions (or subregions)

f) Experience-sharing and case study reports on C&I implementation of programmes focusing on innovative and affordable methods to improve the level of conformity.

# 4 Timing

4.1 Annual progress reports will be submitted to ITU‑D Study Group 2.

4.2 A final report will be submitted to ITU‑D Study Group 2.

# 5 Proposers/sponsors

TBD.

# 6 Sources of input

1) Member States, Sector Members and relevant experts.

2) A Questionnaire covering relevant C&I matters

3) Examination of regulations, policies and practices in countries that have created systems to manage these matters.

4) Other relevant international organizations.

5) Interviews, existing reports and surveys should also be used to gather data and information for the finalization of a comprehensive set of best-practice guidelines for administering C&I information.

6) Material from regional telecommunication organizations, telecommunication research centres, manufacturers and working groups should also be utilized in order to avoid duplication of work.

7) Close cooperation with ITU‑T study groups, in particular Study Group 11 and with other organizations (e.g. ILAC, IAF, ISO, IEC) involved in conformity and interoperability.

# 7 Target audience

| Target audience | Developed countries | Developing countries[[2]](#footnote-2)1 |
| --- | --- | --- |
| Telecom policy-makers | Yes | Yes |
| Telecom regulators | Yes | Yes |
| Service providers/operators | Yes | Yes |
| Manufacturers | Yes | Yes |
| Consumers/end-users | Yes | Yes |
| Standards-development organizations, including consortia | Yes | Yes |
| Testing laboratories | Yes | Yes |
| Certification bodies | Yes | Yes |

a) Target audience

Depending on the nature of the output, policy- and decision-makers, middle- to upper‑level managers in operators, laboratories, SDOs, certification bodies, market-research agencies, regulators and ministries in developed, developing and least developed countries will be the predominant users of the output. Compliance managers at equipment manufacturers and system integrators could also use the output for information.

b) Proposed methods for implementation of the results

The results of the Question are to be distributed through ITU‑D interim and final reports. This will provide a means for the audience to have periodic updates of the work carried out and a means for the audience to provide input and/or seek clarification/more information from ITU‑D Study Group 2 should they need it.

# 8 Proposed methods of handling the Question or issue

The Question will be addressed within a study group over a four-year study period (with submission of interim results), and will be managed by a rapporteur and vice‑rapporteurs. This will enable Member States and Sector Members to contribute their experiences and lessons learned with respect to conformity assessment, type-approval, interoperability, testing laboratories, recognition of testing reports, as well as combating counterfeit devices.

# 9 Coordination

9.1 The ITU‑D study group dealing with this Question will need to coordinate with:

– Relevant ITU‑T study groups, particularly Study Group 11 and its regional groups

– Relevant focal points in BDT and ITU regional offices

– Coordinators of relevant project activities in BDT

– Standards-development organizations (SDOs)

– Conformity-assessment bodies (including testing organizations and laboratories, accreditation organizations, etc.) and industry consortia

– Consumers/end users

– Experts in this field.

# 10 BDT programme link

a) WTDC Resolution 47 (Rev. Buenos Aires, 2017)

b) WTSA Resolution 76 (Rev. Hammamet, 2016)

c) PP Resolution 123 (Rev. Dubai, 2014)

d) ITU C&I Programme

Links to BDT programmes aimed at human-capacity development and assistance to operators in developing and least developed countries, programmes that deal with technical assistance and programmes concerning conformance and interoperability.

# 11 Other relevant information

As may become apparent within the life of this Question.

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

1. SDG 9: https://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/sdg9 [↑](#footnote-ref-1)
2. 1 These include the least developed countries, small island developing states, landlocked developing countries and countries with economies in transition. [↑](#footnote-ref-2)