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| PLENARY MEETING | | **Document WTDC-17/34-E** |
|  | | **19 September 2017** |
|  | | **Original: English** |
| United States of America | | |
| PROPOSED MODIFICATION TO RESOLUTION 2 | | |
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| **Priority area:** - Resolutions and recommendations  **Summary:**  This contribution proposes modifications to Resolution 2 on Establishment of Study Groups. Taking into account experiences in the 2014-2017 study period, this proposal maintains two study groups, while modifying their focus and re-organizing the study questions to align with BDT objectives in the draft strategic plan and the Buenos Aires Action Plan. By identifying a strong link between the Objectives and the study groups, the United States believes that the outputs of the study questions will better respond to the priorities of the Development Sector (BDT) and better enable the work of the Study Groups to complement and enhance BDT implementation of the objectives and regional initiatives.  **Expected results:**  Study groups and study questions will align with the new BDT objectives. This will create greater synergy and efficiency in the work of the Study Groups and BDT programmes and generate responsiveness and greater focus on developing country priorities.  **References:**  IAP5, IAP 24 | | |

**Introduction**

The United States has been an active participant in the ITU-D Study Groups since their inception, playing a collaborative role in the study groups and contributing technical and policy information to help respond to the priorities established by developing countries. The United States recognizes and appreciates the excellent work carried out during the past study period, which is reflected in the Reports of each study question. The United States also recognizes the ongoing challenge to ensure adequate time during study group meetings to consider the large number of high-quality contributions. When organizing the work of the study groups, the United States believes it is important to focus on changes that will facilitate sharing of meaningful lessons learned and best practices, while modernizing working methods, optimizing human and financial resources, avoiding duplication of work, and improving efficiency and accountability mechanisms. To this end, we underscore that the set of questions assigned to each ITU-D Study Group should give clear guidance to the ITU-D membership on its priorities and goals for the upcoming four years and the precise focus and expectation of each question.

***Organization of the Study Groups and distribution and refinement of study questions:***

**● Study Group rationale.** The United States proposes modifications to Resolution 2 “Establishment of Study Groups” to bring greater alignment between the Study Groups and the Objectives established in the Strategic Plan and Buenos Aires Action Plan. A stronger link between the Objectives and the study group focus will better respond to the priorities of developing countries and complement and enhance BDT implementation of the Objectives and Regional Initiatives. Such alignment will also allow for greater optimization of resources and ensure measurable results. Table 1, below, shows how the U.S.-proposed study questions map more precisely to the Objectives and programs contained in the WTDC-17 Action Plan. Table 2, below, presents a proposed study group structure based on that mapping exercise.

**Table 1 – Mapping Proposed ITU-D Study Questions to Proposed WTDC-17 Action Plan Objectives and Programs**

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| --- | --- | --- |
| **Objective 2 – Modern and Secure Telecommunication/ICT Infrastructure: Foster the development of infrastructure and services, including building confidence and security in the use of telecommunications/ICTs** | **Objective 3 – Enabling Environment: Foster an enabling policy and regulatory environment conducive to sustainable telecommunication/ICT development** | **Objective 4 – Inclusive Digital Society: Foster the development and use of telecommunications/ICTs and applications to empower people and societies for sustainable development** |
| **Program: Network infrastructure and services (output 2.1)**  - **Q1/1:** Strategies to deploy fixed broadband networks and middle mile infrastructure **(new question)**.  - **Q2/1:** Last mile wireless broadband connectivity and services **(new question)**.  - **Q3/1:** Access to emerging technologies, including cloud computing, m-services and Over-the-Top (OTT) offerings: Challenges and opportunities for developing countries **(modification of current Q3/1)**.  - **Q4/1:** Telecommunications/ICTs for rural and remote areas **(current Q5/1)**.  - **Q5/1:** Assistance to developing countries for implementing conformance and interoperability programmes **(current Q4/2)**.  **Program: Cybersecurity (output 2.2)**  - **Q6/1:** Securing information and communication networks: Best practices for developing a culture of cybersecurity **(current Q3/2)**.  **Program: Emergency telecommunications (output 2.3)**  - **Q7/1:** Utilization of telecommunications/ICTs for disaster preparedness, mitigation and response **(modification of current Q5/2)**. | **Program: Policy and regulatory framework (output 3.1)**  - **Q1/2:** Economic policies and methods of determining the costs of services related to national telecommunication/ICT networks, including next-generation networks **(current Q4/1)**.  - **Q2/2:** Consumer information, protection and rights: Laws, regulation, economic bases, consumer networks **(current Q6/1)**.  **Program: Transition from analog to digital broadcasting, including post-transition activities (output 3.5)**  - **Q3/2:** Examination of strategies and methods of migration from analogue to digital terrestrial broadcasting and implementation of new services **(current Q8/1)**. | **Program: ICT applications (output 4.2)**  - **Q4/2:** Creating the smart society, including information and telecommunications/ICTs for e-health **(modification of current Q1/2)**.  **Program: Digital inclusion (output 4.3)**  - **Q5/2:** Access to telecommunication/ICT services by persons with disabilities and with specific needs **(current Q7/1)**.  **Program: Climate change adaptation and mitigation (output 4.4)**  - **Q6/2:** ICT and climate change and strategies and policies for the proper disposal or reuse of telecommunication/ICT waste material **(modification of current Q6/2)**.  **Miscellaneous:**  - **Q7/2:** Strategies and policies concerning human exposure to electromagnetic fields **(current Q7/2)**. |

**Table 2 – Proposed Study Group Structure (based on Action Plan Objectives/Programs)**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Study Group 1 – Modern and Secure Telecommunication/ICT Infrastructure (Objective 2 and related programs)** | **Study Group 2 – Enabling Environment and Inclusive Digital Society (combining Objectives 3 and 4 and their related programs)** |
| **Q1/1:** Strategies to deploy fixed broadband networks and middle mile infrastructure **(new question)**.  **Q2/1:** Last mile wireless broadband connectivity and services **(new question)**.  **Q3/1:** Access to emerging technologies, including cloud computing, m-services and Over-the-Top (OTT) offerings: Challenges and opportunities for developing countries **(modification of current Q3/1)**.  **Q4/1:** Telecommunications/ICTs for rural and remote areas **(current Q5/1)**.  **Q5/1:** Assistance to developing countries for implementing conformance and interoperability programmes **(current Q4/2)**.  **Q6/1**Securing information and communication networks: Best practices for developing a culture of cybersecurity **(current Q3/2)**.  **Q7/1:** Utilization of telecommunications/ICTs for disaster preparedness, mitigation and response **(modification of current Q5/2)**. | **Q1/2:** Economic policies and methods of determining the costs of services related to national telecommunication/ICT networks, including next-generation networks **(current Q4/1)**.  **Q2/2:** Consumer information, protection and rights: Laws, regulation, economic bases, consumer networks **(current Q6/1)**.  **Q3/2:** Examination of strategies and methods of migration from analogue to digital terrestrial broadcasting and implementation of new services **(current Q8/1)**.  **Q4/2:** Creating the smart society, including information and telecommunications/ICTs for e-health **(modification of current Q1/2)**.  **Q5/2:** Access to telecommunication/ICT services by persons with disabilities and with specific needs **(current Q7/1)**.  **Q6/2:** ICT and climate change and strategies and policies for the proper disposal or reuse of telecommunication/ICT waste material **(modification of current Q6/2)**.  **Q7/2:** Strategies and policies concerning human exposure to electromagnetic fields **(current Q7/2)**. |

**● Study Question rationale**. The United States participated in both Study Group 1 and Study Group 2 during the last cycle, and followed closely the brainstorming discussions that took place at the end of the study cycle regarding the future of the study questions. The United States believes modifications to the study questions agreed for the new study cycle could help make ITU-D a more vital place to discuss lessons learned and best practices related to international telecommunication/ICT issues. Having clear and concise study group questions and challenging, interesting, and cross-fertilized work programs will better serve member needs. Additionally, the United States believes that the ITU-D study questions should be consistent with the goals, objectives and outputs in the Strategic Plan, taking due account of the need to maximize efficiencies, avoid replicating work already being addressed under the competencies of other bodies, and establish mechanisms to enhance close cooperation and communication with other entities. When analyzing proposals for new questions, we strongly encourage WTDC-17 to evalulate them based on these principles and on BDT objectives. In assigning any new study questions to the study groups, we recommend that WTDC-17 similarly group questions in accordance with the core focus of the study group, consistent with the corresponding BDT objective.

**Proposal**

In analyzing draft Objectives proposed for the Draft Strategic Plan, Draft Buenos Aires Action Plan and the proposed regional initiatives, which establish the priorities of developing countries, the United States proposes the following thematic groupings regarding Study Groups and their related study questions:

**Study Group 1: Modern and Secure Telecommunications/ICTs infrastructure**

The new Study Group 1 would align with **Objectives 1 and 2** in the Strategic Plan and focus on strengthening member capacity in infrastructure deployment, conformance and interoperability, cybersecurity and emergency telecommunications. As such, the United States proposes in Annex 2 that all study questions focused on these topics be grouped into Study Group 1. The focus of the work and questions within the group concentrate on enabling universal and affordable access to telecommunications/ICTs and services for all through infrastructure deployment and exploring new technologies. Members participating in Study Group 1 can expect to find information and resources to help maximize use of the latest technological developments and advancements in telecommunication/ICT.

● **Study Group 1 questions:**

One of the core priorities of countries worldwide and of the work of the ITU is to increase access to broadband. The United States proposes to split the ITU-D Study Group work on broadband into two Questions within Study Group 1, with updated and renewed terms of reference.

**- New Question (USA): [**Strategies to Deploy Fixed Broadband Networks and Middle Mile Infrastructure] (US proposal under development– text to be amended once an US input is agreed).

**- New Question:** Last Mile Wireless Broadband Connectivity and Services **(IAP 5).** This Question would *replace* **Question 2/1** on Broadband Access technologies, including IMT, for developing countries.

**- Modified Question (USA):** Access to emerging technologies, including cloud computing, m-services and Over-the-Top (OTT) offerings: Challenges and opportunities for developing countries. This is a modification to **Question 3/1** that incorporates existing Q1/1 terms of reference on m-services and Over-the-Top (OTT) offerings into the existing question on cloud computing.

**Study Group 2: Fostering an Enabling Environment and an inclusive digital society**

- The new Study Group 2 would align with **Objectives 3 and 4** in the Strategic Plan and focus on strengthening member capacity in fostering an enabling policy and regulatory environment conducive to sustainable telecommunication/ICT development including new technologies and spectrum management; promoting innovation; and digital inclusion and accessibility. Each of these topics falls under Objectives 3 and 4 and as such, the United States proposes in Annex 2 that study questions focused on these topics be grouped into Study Group 2. As distinguished from Study Group 1, Study Group 2 will be a source of information on regulatory policy and best practices related to the enabling environment for telecommunications/ICTs and will consider modern and new approaches to foster applications and services. In addition, the United States proposes that, consistent with the proposed scope of Objective 2 and IAP 19, activities related to Resolution 9 on spectrum management, including necessary exchange with experts from ITU-R, be made available to developing countries and participants through Study Group 2.

**● Study Group 2 questions:**

Consistent with the mandate of Study Group 2 to focus on best practices that foster an enabling environment and an inclusive digital society, and to achieve greater efficiencies in the work of the study questions, the United States proposes the following changes to study question work within the group:

**- Merge Questions related to telecommunication/ICT applications and best practices.**

**● Modified Question:** Creating the smart society, including information and telecommunications/ICTs for e-health. This is a modification to **Question 1/2** that incorporates relevant terms of reference from **Question 2/2:** Information and telecommunications/ICTs for e-health.

**- Merge questions related to telecommunications/ICTs and the Environment:**

**● Modified Question:** ICT and climate change and strategies and policies for the proper disposal or reuse of telecommunication/ICT waste material. This is a modification to **Question 6/2** that incorporates relevant terms of reference from **Question 8/2:** Strategies and policies for the proper disposal or reuse of telecommunication/ICT waste material.

**Conclusion:**

The United States proposes the following modifications to resolution 2 to align the study group structure with the ITU-D Contribution to the ITU Strategic Plan and ensure that the component questions are consistent with the objectives in the Strategic Plan and Buenos Aires Action Plan.

**MOD** USA/34/1

RESOLUTION 2 (REV. Buenos Aires , 2017)

Establishment of study groups

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

considering

*a)* that the mandate for each study group needs to be clearly defined, in order to avoid duplication between study groups and other groups of the ITU Telecommunication Development Sector (ITU‑D) established pursuant to No. 209A of the ITU Convention and to ensure the coherence of the overall work programme of the Sector as provided for in Article 16 of the Convention;

*b)* that, for carrying out the studies entrusted to ITU‑D, it is appropriate to set up study groups, as provided for in Article 17 of the Convention, to deal with specific task-oriented telecommunication questions of priority to developing countries, taking into consideration the ITU strategic plan and goals for 2020-2023 , and prepare relevant outputs in the form of reports, guidelines and/or Recommendations for the development of telecommunications/information and communication technologies (ICTs);

*c)* the need as far as possible to avoid duplication between studies undertaken by ITU‑D and those carried out by the other two Sectors of the Union;

*d)* the successful results of the studies under the Questions adopted by the World Telecommunication Development Conference (Dubai, 2014) and assigned to the two study groups,

resolves

1 to create within the Sector two study groups, with a clear responsibility and mandates as set out in Annex 1 to this resolution;

2 that each study group and their relevant groups will study the Questions adopted by this conference and assigned to it as shown in Annex 2 to this resolution, and those adopted between two world telecommunication development conferences in accordance with the provisions of Resolution 1 (Rev. Buenos Aires, 2017) of this conference;

3 that the study group Questions and BDT objectives should be directly linked in order to enhance awareness and use of the BDT programmes and the study group output documents, so that the study groups and the BDT programmes benefit from each other's activities, resources and expertise;

4that the organization of the Study Groups should lead to increased synergy, transparency, and efficiency with minimal overlap between study questions;

5 that the study groups should make use of the relevant outputs of the other two Sectors and the General Secretariat;

6 that the study groups may also consider other ITU materials relevant to their mandates, as appropriate;

7 that each Question will consider all aspects related to the topic, objectives and expected output in line with the related programme;

8 that the study groups will be managed by the chairmen and vice-chairmen as shown in Annex 3 to this resolution.

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

Scope of ITU‑D study groups

# 1 Study Group 1

**[Aligns with Objective 2 of the proposed Buenos Aires Action Plan]**

***Modern and Secure Telecommunications/ICTs Infrastructure***

- Telecommunication/ICT infrastructure and services, including wireless and fixed broadband

- Telecommunications/ICTs in remote and rural areas

- Conformance and interoperability

- Build confidence and security in the use of telecommunications/ICTs

- Telecommunication/ICT for disaster risk reduction, early warning, and emergency communications

# 2 Study Group 2

**[Aligns with Objectives 3 and 4 of the proposed Buenos Aires Action Plan]**

***Fostering an enabling environment and an inclusive digital society***

- Enabling policy, legal and regulatory environments conducive to development of telecommunications/ICTs in a digital economy

- Strategies to promote telecommunication/ICT innovation

- Transition from analogue to digital terrestrial television broadcasting and related post-transition activities

- New technologies and telecommunications/ICT applications (e.g. health, agriculture, commerce, governance, education, finance)

- Digital inclusion, especially for persons with specific needs and vulnerable groups

- Climate-change adaptation and mitigation

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: Modern And Secure Telecommunication/ICT Infrastructure

- **Question 1/1:** Strategies to deploy fixed broadband networks and middle mile infrastructure

- **Question 2/1:** Last mile wireless broadband connectivity and services

– **Question 3/1:** Access to emerging technologies, including cloud computing, m-services and Over-the-Top (OTT) offerings: Challenges and opportunities for developing countries

**1**

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

**61**

**71**

# Study Group 2: Fostering an Enabling Environment and an Inclusive Digital Society

**12**

**22**

**32**

– **Question 4/2:** Creating the smart society, including information and telecommunications/ICTs for e-health

**52**

– **Question 6/2:** ICT and climate change and strategies and policies for the proper disposal or reuse of telecommunication/ICT waste material

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

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

Annex 3 to Resolution 2 (Rev. Dubai, 2014)

List of chairmen and vice-chairmen

# Study Group 1

**Chairman**: Ms Roxanne McElvane (United States of America)

**Vice-chairmen**:

Ms Regina Fleur Assoumou-Bessou (Republic of Côte d’Ivoire)

Mr Peter Ngwan Mbengie (Republic of Cameroon)

Mr Victor Martinez (Republic of Paraguay)

Ms Claymir Carozza Rodriguez (Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela)

Mr Wesam Al-Ramadeen (Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan)

Mr Ahmed Abdel Aziz Gad (Arab Republic of Egypt)

Mr Nguyen Quy Quyen (Socialist Republic of Viet Nam)

Mr Yasuhiko Kawasumi (Japan)

Mr Vadym Kaptur (Ukraine)

Mr Almaz Tilenbaev (Kyrgyz Republic)

Ms Blanca González (Spain)

# Study Group 2

**Chairman**: Mr Ahmad Reza Sharafat (Islamic Republic of Iran)

**Vice-chairmen**:

Ms Aminata Kaba-Camara (Republic of Guinea)

Mr Christopher Kemei (Republic of Kenya)

Ms Celina Delgado (Nicaragua)

Mr Nasser Al Marzouqi (United Arab Emirates)

Mr Nadir Ahmed Gaylani (Republic of the Sudan)

Ms Ke Wang (People’s Republic of China)

Mr Ananda Raj Khanal (Federal Democratic Republic of Nepal)

Mr Evgeny Bondarenko (Russian Federation)

Mr Henadz Asipovich (Republic of Belarus)

Mr Petko Kantchev (Republic of Bulgaria)

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