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|  | **Telecommunication Development Advisory Group (TDAG)**  **29th Meeting, Virtual, 8-12 November 2021** | | A close up of a sign  Description automatically generated |
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|  | | **Document** **TDAG-2****1/2/3-E** | |
|  | | **8 October 2021** | |
|  | | **Original:** **English** | |
| Director, Telecommunication Development Bureau | | | |
| Report on the work of the Expert Group on the International Telecommunication Regulations (EG-ITR) | | | |
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| **Summary:**  This progress report presents the work of the Expert Group on the International Telecommunication Regulations (EG-ITRs)[[1]](#footnote-1), highlighting the main outputs from the fifth meeting organized from 30 September to 1 October 2021.  **Action required:**  Pursuant to Res. 1379 (Council 2019) which instructs the Directors of the Bureaux  “*each within their field of competence, with advice from the relevant advisory group, to contribute to the work of the Group, recognizing that the ITU Telecommunication Standardization Sector has most of the work relevant to the ITRs*”;  and following the invitation of the EG-ITR Chairman to the BDT Director to:  “*seek advice from the relevant advisory group to contribute to the work of the EG-ITR Group, taking into account the agreed work plan of EG-ITR in annex 1*”;  TDAG is invited to note this document and provide guidance and inputs as deemed appropriate at its 6th meeting to be held from 19 to 20 January 2022, in order to achieving the goals of the EG-ITRs.  **References:**  Revision 2 to Document EG-ITRs-1/DL/3-E, Resolution 146 (Rev. Dubai, 2018) of the Plenipotentiary Conference, Resolution 1379 (Modified 2019) of the ITU Council. | | | |

**Expert Group on the International Telecommunication Regulations (EG-ITRs)   
Progress report to TDAG of the fifth meeting**

1. **Background**

Considering the background for the Council Working Group EG-ITRs[[2]](#footnote-2), during the last meetings, it was the occasion for the members of the EG-ITRs to focus on the provision-by-provision review of the ITRs in accordance with the agreed Work Plan[[3]](#footnote-3). In accordance with the practice, and as agreed at the first meeting of the EG-ITRs, the Group conducted the review of all the provisions using the Examination Table, considering the contributions received and the discussions at the meeting. The “*Summary Outcome*” column of the Examination Table was completed during the meeting while the other two columns on “*Applicability in fostering provision and development of networks and services*” and “*Flexibility to accommodate New trends and Emergent issues*” were completed offline by the Vice Chairs in consultation with their regions.

1. **Outputs from the fifth meeting of EG-ITRs (30 September – 1 October 2021)**

The fifth meeting of EG-ITRs focused mainly on the following agenda:

* Feedback from the Directors of the Bureaux
* Discussion on contributions received
* Discussion on the draft Final Report to Council 2022
* Next steps

Seven contributions were received (available at <https://www.itu.int/md/S21-EGITR5-C/en>) and presented. As per the Work Plan, the Group had to focus on discussing overall observations on the provision-by-provision review contained in the completed Examination Table ([available as DL 1](https://www.itu.int/md/S21-EGITR5-210930-DL/)), as well as discussing the draft Final Report to Council 2022 ([available as DL 2](https://www.itu.int/md/S21-EGITR5-210930-DL/)).

Members exchanged views on the mandate and scope of work of the Group, with some suggesting that the Group should agree on and propose a way forward for the ITRs in its final report to Council 2022, while some members were of the view that the Group has accomplished its task by completing the provision-by-provision review of the ITRs and that the final report should provide a factual report of the discussions within the Group, stating there is no consensus on the way forward.

Members also reviewed a draft of the final report to Council 2022 and broadly agreed on the structure of the report, including that it should reflect the different positions and perspectives expressed by the Group on the ITRs and the way forward, the various meeting reports of the EG-ITRs and the contributions received, as well as the consolidated Examination Table which is to be attached as an Annex.

All the discussions and contributions of this meeting will be made available in the meeting report to be published on 22 October.

1. **Next steps**

Preparation of the report of the fifth meeting, using the same procedure as adopted in previous meeting:

* To be drafted by the Chairman with the assistance of the Secretariat;
* Will be circulated among the Vice-Chairs who will consult withing their respective regions and provide feedback to the Chairman;
* Based on feedback received, the Chairman will send out a revised version for approval;
* Final meeting report will be posted (22 October 2021).

Final Report to Council 2022

* After the fifth meeting, members will have the opportunity to provide written inputs on the draft Final Report to Council [available as DL 2](https://www.itu.int/md/S21-EGITR5-210930-DL/) (deadline 15 October)
* Taking into account the discussions and inputs received, the draft Final Report to Council will be revised by the Management Team (26 October)
* The revised report will be circulated among the Vice-Chairs for feedback and regional consultation (deadline 12 November)
* Based on feedback received, an updated version of the draft Final Report to Council with the consolidated Examination Table (Preamble Art. 14/Appendices 1 & 2) attached as an annex, will be posted online as an input document to the sixth meeting of the EG-ITRs on 13 December 2021.

Based on the agreed EG-ITR Work Plan (annex 1), the Final Report to Council will need to be finalized at the 6th meeting, to be held from 19 to 20 January 2022.

**Annex 1**

**EG-ITRs work plan**

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|  | **Revision 2 to Document EG-ITRs-1/DL/3-E 17 September 2019  English only** |

**Work plan**

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| **Meeting** | **Primary Actions** | **Provisions** | **Expectations** |
| 2nd Meeting  (12-13 February 2020) | Provision-by-provision examination of the ITRs | Preamble  ARTICLE 1 Purpose and scope of the Regulations  ARTICLE 2 Definitions  ARTICLE 3 International network  ARTICLE 4 International telecommunication services | Draft results of the provision-by-provision examination using the Examination Table[[4]](#footnote-4)  Progress report to the Council |
| 3rd meeting  (17-18 September 2020) | ARTICLE 5 Safety of life and priority of telecommunications  ARTICLE 6 Security and robustness of networks  ARTICLE 7 Unsolicited bulk electronic communications  ARTICLE 8 Charging and accounting  APPENDIX 1 General provisions concerning accounting | Draft results of the provision-by-provision examination using the Examination Table |
| 4th Meeting  (3-4 February 2021) | ARTICLE 9 Suspension of services  ARTICLE 10 Dissemination of information  ARTICLE 11 Energy efficiency/e-waste  ARTICLE 12 Accessibility  ARTICLE 13 Special arrangements  ARTICLE 14 Final provisions  APPENDIX 2 Additional provisions relating to maritime telecommunications | Draft results of the provision-by-provision examination using the Examination Table  Progress report to the Council |
| 5th Meeting  (30 Sept. – 1 Oct. 2021) | Overall observations based on the provision-by-provision examination |  | First draft of the Final Report to Council 2022 |
| 6th Meeting  (19-20 January 2022) | Finalize the Final Report to Council 2022 |  | Final Report to Council 2022 |

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1. The Expert Group on ITRs website is available at: <https://www.itu.int/en/council/Pages/eg-itrs.aspx>. [↑](#footnote-ref-1)
2. Resolution 146 (Rev. Dubai, 2018) of the Plenipotentiary Conference, on the periodic review and revision of the International Telecommunication Regulations, instructed the Secretary-General to reconvene an EG-ITR, open to the ITU Member States and Sector Members, with terms of reference and working methods established by the ITU Council, to review those regulations. [↑](#footnote-ref-2)
3. At its session in June 2019, the Council reviewed and modified its Resolution 1379, on Expert Group on the International Telecommunication Regulations, and approved the terms of reference for the group, available at: <https://www.itu.int/en/council/Pages/eg-itrs.aspx>. [↑](#footnote-ref-3)
4. *Note: Identification of new trends in telecommunications/ICT and emerging issues in international telecommunications/ICT environment will be covered under column 5 of the agreed* Examination Table *(Flexibility to accommodate new trends and emerging issues).* [↑](#footnote-ref-4)