|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Telecommunication Development Advisory Group (TDAG)**  **31st Meeting, Geneva, Switzerland, 20-23 May 2024** | A close up of a sign  Description automatically generated |
|  |  |
|  | **Document** **TDAG-2****4/9-E** |
|  | **19 March 2024** |
|  | **Original:** **English** |
| Chair, Inter-Sector Coordination Group | |
| Report of the Inter-Sector Coordination Group (ISCG) on issues of mutual interest | |
|  | |
| **Summary:**  This document presents a report of the Inter-Sector Coordination Group (ISCG) on issues of mutual interest, highlighting the conclusions from its last meeting, held on 24 January 2024.  **Action required:**  TDAG is invited to note this document and provide guidance as deemed appropriate.  **References:**  PP-[Resolution 191](https://www.itu.int/en/council/Documents/basic-texts-2023/RES-191-E.pdf) (Rev. Bucharest, 2022) | |

**Introduction**

The Chair of the Inter-Sector Coordination Group (ISCG) on issues of mutual interest, Mr Fabio Bigi, would like to present to the Telecommunication Development Advisory Group (TDAG) the results of the ISCG’s last meeting held on 24 January 2024, at ITU Headquarters, from 12:30 to 14:00 (CET).

The meeting was held in conjunction with the Telecommunication Standardization Advisory Group (TSAG) meeting, and it allowed remote participation and captioning through the Zoom platform.

The meeting approved the Agenda ([ISCG/24-1/01-R3](https://www.itu.int/en/general-secretariat/ties/ISCGDocumentLibrary/1st%20Meeting%202024/ISCG-24-1-01-E-R3-Agenda.docx)) as well as the report of the previous ISCG meeting ([ISCG/24-1/02](https://www.itu.int/en/general-secretariat/ties/ISCGDocumentLibrary/1st%20Meeting%202024/ISCG-24-1-02-1st%20Meeting%202023-Final%20Report.docx)).

All the documents presented and discussed during the meeting, including the Agenda and the list of participants can be accessed through the [ISCG webpage](https://www.itu.int/en/general-secretariat/Pages/ISCG/default.aspx). The meeting’s final report (ISCG/24-2/02) is pending formal approval from the ISCG members meeting on 21st May 2024.

The Chair of the ISCG, would like to thank the Chair of TDAG, Ms Roxanne McElvane Webber, for agreeing to organize an ISCG meeting on 21 May 2024, in conjunction with the 31 meeting of TDAG.

**Main discussions**

**Report on the implementation of PP-Resolution 191 (Rev. Bucharest, 2022)**

The ITU secretariat presented the framework for the Intersectoral Coordination Strategy (see document [ISCG/24-1/03-R1](https://www.itu.int/en/general-secretariat/ties/ISCGDocumentLibrary/1st%20Meeting%202024/ISCM-Res%20191-R1.pptx)). Considering the members’ requests presented to Council 2023, the strategy contemplates coordination within the ITU secretariat, by means of the Inter-Sectoral Coordination Task Force (ISC-TF) which liaises with the ISCG to identify the membership’s needs and provide options to improve cooperation and coordination within the secretariat, and also prepares the reports on the implementation of Resolution 191 (Rev. Bucharest, 2022) to be presented to Council -and to the CWG-FHR whenever needed- and to the Plenipotentiary Conference (PP). On the other side, the membership coordination is under this ISCG, a contribution-driven group, which reports to the Sectors’ advisory groups and to the CWG-FHR. Outcomes from the ISCG are also considered for the report on the implementation of the PP resolution.

A mapping of resolutions and all current inter-Sector activities taking place within the secretariat were carried out and the list of themes calling for intersectoral coordination together with the Focal Points appointed by the Sectors and the General Secretariat can be found [here](https://www.itu.int/en/general-secretariat/ties/ISCGDocumentLibrary/Liaisons%20Statements%20on%20Inter-Sectoral%20Coordination%20Activities/ISCM-List%20of%20Focal%20Points.pdf).

A member highlighted that the ISCG should not only be reacting to the mapping of activities, but should take a more proactive approach, and to advise, before each main Conference/Assembly, the need to streamline resolutions and/or better allocate themes under the Sectors and/or under the Plenipotentiary Conference. A concrete example was given on the theme ‘sustainable digital transformation’, now one of the strategic goals of the Union, whether this theme should be a resolution approved by each of the Sectors or if the theme should be discussed at the Plenipotentiary level to have only one resolution coming out of PP.

The ISCG Chair invites TDAG members to submit proposals on how to better address that theme, as well as to provide feedback on the list of themes to be coordinated in an inter-sectorial way, to the next meeting.

**Reports from the Radiocommunication Advisory Group (RAG)**

The Deputy to the Director of the Radiocommunication Sector presented an oral report on the outcomes of the Radio Assembly (RA-23) and the World Radiocommunication Conference (WRC-23) held in Dubai from 13 November to 15 December 2023.

To highlight, the meetings had 3.982 delegates, which was a 16% increase over 2019; from whom 860 were women delegates, which means an 83% increase over 2019.

Related to the content, on broadband connectivity, WRC-23 allocated additional frequency bands, the mobile service on a primary basis. Also identified some bands for IMT that would contribute not only to IMT-2000, but also to the subsequent development of 6G. It identified some frequencies that could be used both in the 6 GHz range, both for IMT as well as for the implementation of wireless access systems. Broadband communications were extended to the sea and the air, and regulatory provisions and interference management mechanisms were put in place to allow for Earth stations in motion on aircraft and vessels to communicate both to the geostationary and non-geostationary space systems.

There were also a number of outcomes on the aeronautical front, the conference allocated additional VHF spectrum to aeronautical mobile satellite route service intended to relay ground to pilot communication via NGO satellite systems. This complements the terrestrial communications infrastructure when aircrafts are operating in oceanic and remote areas and allows aircrafts to be in touch with air traffic controllers everywhere.

Related to scientific agenda items, in particular, the transmission of scientific data, WRC-23 established additional allocations to the Earth exploration satellite service to provide unique information on physical properties of the Earth and the atmosphere and as well as broadband communication downlinks to enable future transmission of scientific data at high transmission speeds to support the climate change goals in terms of being able to enhance monitoring of earth and its impact on climate change. With respect to space services, also adopted regulatory actions for the provision of inter satellite links that will allow more data to be made available in real time, enhancing the availability and value of instrument data for low latency applications such as weather forecasting and disaster risk reduction.

WRC-23 also adopted a number of agenda items for the next conference. One related to lunar communications focusing on the Space research service used for scientific or technological purposes, and looking at how the communication systems would be used on the moon in the near future as well as in the vicinity of the moon, so in lunar orbits. That's probably one of the most exciting areas of work that will continue the preparations over the next WRC-27.

There is also an item related to space sustainability, taking appropriate action for the fixed satellite service, satellite networks and systems and portions of various frequency bands with respect to equitable access to those bands by all countries. Another agenda item related to direct connectivity between space stations and IMT user terminals, known as smartphones, to complement the terrestrial IMT network coverage.

Last but not least, RA-23 took all the necessary actions with respect to revision to the ITU-R resolutions.

The ISCG members welcomed the very successful outcomes and requested that more information related to the new Resolution ITU-R 75 on “Strengthening coordination and cooperation among the three ITU Sectors on matters of mutual interest” should be presented to the next ISCG meeting.

The final text of these resolution is now available on the [ISCG website](https://www.itu.int/en/general-secretariat/Pages/ISCG/default.aspx). Resolutions ITU-R 6-3 (2019) and ITU-R 7-4 (2019) were suppressed by the RA-23.

**Report from the Telecommunication Standardization Advisory Group (TSAG)**

The Deputy to the Director of the Standardization Sector presented an oral report highlighting that TSAG was taking place at the same time with its main agenda item being the preparations for the World Telecommunication Standardization Assembly (WTSA-24) taking place in October in India. The Global Standardization Symposium will also take place there. Discussions are taking place around the restructuring of the ITU-T Study Groups and some consensus seems to be on merging Study Groups 9 and 16.

Inter-regional coordination meetings on preparations for WTSA-24 are already ongoing.

It was informed that TSAG had recently launched the Network of Women for ITU-T with the aim to align it with the other two Sectors’ networks related to its composition and functioning, the Terms of Reference had been updated.

Related to bridging the standardization gap, the TSB Director, Mr Seizo Onoe, announced a new programme, with the support of Japan, to expand and enhance the programme to focus on standards development, but also on standards implementation. There is already collaboration with BDT on the implementation of standards, and TSB is reaching out to BR to harmonize the way fellowships are allocated.

It was also informed that TSAG agreed to reactivate the Rapporteur Group on Strategic and Operational Planning and that this group will undertake an analysis of the ITU-T requirements related to the Union’s Strategic Plan, once Council agrees to reactivate the CWG-SFP. The ISCG could be the place for trying to reach agreement on the format and content of what is expected from the sectors with regard to the next strategic plan.

A liaison statement on the use of inclusive language in ITU-T texts was sent after the last TSAG meeting ([TSAG-LS0020](https://www.itu.int/en/general-secretariat/ties/ISCGDocumentLibrary/1st%20Meeting%202024/TSAG-LS00020-Inclusive%20language.docx)) for the ISCG members to note, as it is a subject to be discussed within the group.

The ISCG Chair also mentioned that there is an ITU-T group dealing with ‘sustainable digital transformation’ and the need to keep the other Sectors advisory groups informed and involved.

**Report from the** **Telecommunication Development Advisory Group (TDAG)**

The acting Deputy to the Director of the Development Sector presented an oral report.

It was highlighted that TDAG replied to three liaison statements, posted as [TDAG-LS1](https://www.itu.int/en/general-secretariat/ties/ISCGDocumentLibrary/1st%20Meeting%202024/TDAG-LS001-Access%20to%20documents%20on%20intersectoral%20activities.docx), [TDAG-LS2](https://www.itu.int/en/general-secretariat/ties/ISCGDocumentLibrary/1st%20Meeting%202024/TDAG-LS002-Machine%20translation.docx), and [TDAG-LS4](https://www.itu.int/en/general-secretariat/ties/ISCGDocumentLibrary/1st%20Meeting%202024/TDAG-LS004-Governance%20and%20management%20of%20virtual%20meetings.docx), acknowledging receipt of the communications sent by the ISCG and specifically on the matter related to ‘Governance and management of virtual meetings’ TDAG expressed their interest as ITU-D does not yet have separate, overall guidelines for virtual meetings. Instead, ITU-D study groups and TDAG publish their own guidelines to the participants of each of their events.

**Accessibility**

The Coordinator for accessibility, Ms Andrea Saks, reported on two technical papers from ITU-T, one on ‘Guidelines for accessible meetings’ ([FSTP-ACC-RemPart](https://www.itu.int/dms_pub/itu-t/opb/tut/T-TUT-FSTP-2015-ACC-PDF-E.pdf), 2015), and the other one on ‘Guidelines for supporting remote participation in meetings for all’ ([FSTP-AM](https://ituint.sharepoint.com/sites/MaitesTeam/Shared%20Documents/BDT_Meetings%20from%202020/TDAG/2023-2025/TDAG-24/Documents/Cs/•%09FSTP-AM), 2015).

The coordinator also requested ITU meetings to allow the captioning option, but also to have the stream text so persons who are deaf and hard of hearing can see the whole transcript after the meeting. This would be useful also to share the meeting outcomes with the Joint Coordination Activity on Accessibility and Human Factors, Question 26, and with ITU-T Study Group 2. She highlighted the importance of how ITU approaches captioning, and the advent eventually of sign language interpretation when requested, and how to make ITU meetings more accessible. Pros and cons of automatic captioning versus human captioning related to cost and accuracy needs to be assessed carefully.

The ISCG Chair welcomed the presentation and requested a written report to be submitted to the next meeting.

**Climate change**

The ITU secretariat’s Focal Point presented document [ISCG/24-1-06](https://www.itu.int/en/general-secretariat/ties/ISCGDocumentLibrary/1st%20Meeting%202024/Green%20Digital%20Action%20at%20COP%2028.pdf) containing detailed information about ITU’s participation in COP 28, where the Green Digital Action was launched.

This initiative, brought on board over 40 partners, including ITU members, but also fellow UN agencies, with the objective of increasing collaboration across the digital industry for concrete and more tangible climate efforts. The coalition builds around 6 pillars, and 4 of them already had fantastic outcomes at COP. All details can be found in the presentation, as a clear example of a OneITU climate approach that could be taken for other themes.

Members are invited to join the Green Digital Coalition by scanning the QR on the presentation.

The Coordinator for climate change, Mr Paolo Gemma, presented document [ISCG/24-1-07](https://www.itu.int/en/general-secretariat/ties/ISCGDocumentLibrary/1st%20Meeting%202024/ISCG-24-1-07-Report%20Climate%20change%20Coordinator.docx) with the activities that ITU-T is carrying out in collaboration with the other Sectors.

The ITU-R coordinator for both accessibility and climate change presented document [ISCG/24-1-08](https://www.itu.int/en/general-secretariat/ties/ISCGDocumentLibrary/1st%20Meeting%202024/ISCG-24-1-08-ITU-R%20Focal%20Point-Contribution.docx), highlighting that two new reports were approved: BS/[BT.2522](https://www.itu.int/pub/R-REP-BT/publications.aspx?lang=en&parent=R-REP-BT.2522) *A framework for the future of broadcasting* and BS/[BT.2524](https://www.itu.int/pub/R-REP-BT/publications.aspx?lang=en&parent=R-REP-BT.2524) *A framework for future of broadcast production*. Both reports contain information on the development of sustainable broadcasting initiatives for the end-to-end broadcasting chain and how new AI-based personalization processing can take full advantage of traditional, hybrid and fully IP-based platforms and services.

It was raised that the UN High-Level Political Forum on Sustainable Development 2024 will be focused on the Sustainable Digital Goal 13 (SDG13) on Climate Action, among others, so ITU’s activities and outcomes on this theme should be included on the Council report to the HLPF-24.

**Virtual meetings / Remote participation**

The Coordinator for these theme, and Chair of ITU-T Study Group 2, Mr Philip Rushton, highlighted the importance of sharing information with Council on the work being done by the Sectors to then collaborate and take forward common, clear, and transparent rules useful for the membership to follow.

The ITU secretariat commented that the same document that will be presented to the CWG-FHR, which basically lists the existing practices, is also posted on the ISCG website (see [CWG-FHR-17/INF/4](https://www.itu.int/md/S24-CWGFHR17-INF-0004/en)). TDAG is invited to consider the document.

The ISCG Chair added that political guidance should come from the membership and from the Plenipotentiary Conference, as there are still several solutions been used by the Sectors for virtual meetings.

**ITU website**

The ITU secretariat’s Focal Point submitted document [ISCG/24-1/05](https://www.itu.int/en/general-secretariat/ties/ISCGDocumentLibrary/1st%20Meeting%202024/ITUWebsite.docx) which was also presented to the CWG-FHR, informing that the Coordination Committee (CoCo) agreed on the revamping of the ITU website to make it more user-friendly, searchable, navigable, answering to the membership requests. The process has been outlined and a roadmap will be presented shortly.

The ISCG members requested to be informed of all steps in the process to be able to provide feedback, as the ITU website is a matter of high importance when it comes to easing the accessibility, assuring equal footing in the use of the six languages, harmonizing the content layout and facilitating the research of items.

**Mapping Tables**

The ITU secretariat informed that the [Mapping of Resolutions](https://www.itu.int/en/general-secretariat/ties/ISCGDocumentLibrary/1st%20Meeting%202023/Mapping-of-resolutions-Updated%20Oct2022.pdf) and all mapping tables are updated and can be found on the ISCG website.

The ITU-D Focal Point for this matter, presented [Table 3](https://www.itu.int/en/general-secretariat/ties/ISCGDocumentLibrary/1st%20Meeting%202024/ISCG-24-1-04-Mapping%20Table%203.docx) (mapping ITU-T and ITU-D) for formal approval as discussions within the two Sectors continued after the last ISCG meeting held in 2023.

This table presents some improvements as it includes detailed information on the exact topics of common interest between the Sectors.

This table has been presented to TDAG by means of a Liaison Statement, for action, to follow the same format when reviewing Tables 1 based on the outcomes of the Radiocommunication Assembly (RA-23).

**Any other business**

The ISCG Chair reiterated the need to revise the Terms of Reference (ToR) of the group, and encouraged the ISCG Management Team to work within a virtual drafting group and to bring a proposal to the next meeting.

**Conclusion**

TDAG is invited to discuss this document and to present comments and proposals to the ISCG on the themes that were presented and any other possible joint activity and/or mechanisms to strengthen cooperation.

TDAG members are invited to follow all ISCG activities through the dedicated website [here](https://www.itu.int/en/general-secretariat/Pages/ISCG/default.aspx).

The ISCG Chair would like to thank TDAG for the opportunity to present this report, and to organize the ISCG meeting in conjunction with this meeting.

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