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| **Telecommunication Development Advisory Group (TDAG)**  **31st Meeting, Geneva, Switzerland, 20-23 May 2024** | A close up of a sign  Description automatically generated |
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|  | **Document** **TDAG-2****4/15-E** |
|  | **9 April 2024** |
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| **Director, Telecommunication Standardization Bureau** | |
| Preparations for the World Telecommunication Standardization Assembly (WTSA-24) | |
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| **Summary:**  The document reports about the status of preparations for the World Telecommunication Standardization Assembly (WTSA-24) and the Global Standards Symposium (GSS-24).  **Action required:**  TDAG is invited to note the report.  **References:**  <https://www.itu.int/wtsa/2024/> | |

1. **Venue and date**
   1. No. 114 of the ITU Constitution stipulates that world telecommunication standardization assemblies (WTSAs) shall be convened every four years; and Nos. 23 and 24 of the ITU Convention stipulate that one WTSA shall normally be convened within the period between two plenipotentiary conferences.
   2. Resolution 77 (Rev. Bucharest, 2022) of the Plenipotentiary Conference resolves that WTSA shall be held in the last quarter of 2024 in India.
   3. Resolution 111 (Rev. Busan, 2014) of the Plenipotentiary Conference resolves that the Union and its Member States should make every effort, as far as practicable, in order that the planned period of any ITU conference or assembly not be scheduled during a period which is considered a major religious period by a Member State.
   4. No. 42 of the Convention and Chapter I of the General Rules of Conferences, Assemblies and Meetings of the Union require that, in the absence of a decision by the Plenipotentiary Conference, the precise place and exact dates of a WTSA be approved by the ITU Council with the concurrence of a majority of the Member States.
   5. The ITU Secretary-General has received in March 2023 an invitation from the Government of India for the hosting of WTSA-24 in India with the proposed dates of 15 to 24 October 2024, at Pragati Maidan, New Delhi, India (see [C23/24](https://www.itu.int/md/S23-CL-C-0024/en) [Annex 1](#Annex1)).
   6. Following Council [Decision 629](https://www.itu.int/md/S23-CL-C-0123/en) adopted at the 2023 Session of Council, the Secretary-General carried out a consultation with all Member States on the precise place and exact dates of WTSA-24.
   7. Following the successful consultation among ITU Member States carried out by Circular Letter [No. 23/28](https://www.itu.int/md/S23-SG-CIR-0028/en) of 5 September 2023, [CL-23/37](https://www.itu.int/md/S23-SG-CIR-0037/en) of 16 October 2023 announced the agreement of the required majority of the Member States of ITU (113 positive replies, 1 negative reply, 5 abstention), in accordance with No. 42 of the ITU Convention.
   8. As a result, the next **WTSA** is planned in **New Delhi India** from **15 to 24 October 2024**, preceded by the Global Standards Symposium **(GSS) on 14 October 2024**.
   9. TSB in coordination with the ITU Conferences and Publications Department carried out an on-site visit in October 2023 to the International Exhibition cum Convention Centre, New Delhi, India, for the further logistical planning of the assembly.
2. **Invitation letters**
   1. Invitation letters for WTSA-24 and GSS-24 have been sent to:

* [Administrations of the Member States of the Union](https://www.itu.int/md/S23-SG-CIR-0042/en)
* [ITU-T Sector Members](https://www.itu.int/md/S23-DM-CIR-01014/en)
* [ITU Academia](https://www.itu.int/md/S23-DM-CIR-01013/en)
* [UN and its Specialized Agencies, IAEA, Regional telecommunication organizations, Intergovernmental organizations operating satellite systems, Other regional or international organizations](https://www.itu.int/md/S23-DM-CIR-01015/en)
* State of Palestine
  1. Summary of WTSA-24 related Circulars released to date:
* TSB [CL 176](https://www.itu.int/md/T22-TSB-CIR-0176/en) (+ Cor.1) Candidates for chairs and vice-chairs of ITU-T study groups, the Telecommunication Standardization Advisory Group (TSAG) and the Standardization Committee for Vocabulary (SCV) for 2025 – 2028
* TSB [CL 177](https://www.itu.int/md/T22-TSB-CIR-0177/en)World Telecommunication Standardization Assembly (WTSA-24)
* TSB [CL 178](https://www.itu.int/md/T22-TSB-CIR-0178/en) Global Standards Symposium (GSS-24)
* TSB [CL 179](https://www.itu.int/md/T22-TSB-CIR-0179/en) IRM Second Interregional meeting for preparation of WTSA-24 (to be issued)
* TSB [CL 182](https://www.itu.int/md/T22-TSB-CIR-0182/en) Network of Women for WTSA-24 (17 October 2024)
* ITU [CL-24/6](https://www.itu.int/md/S24-SG-CIR-0006/en) – ITU Kaleidoscope 2024 (21-23 October 2024)

1. **Candidates for chair of ITU-T study groups, TSAG, and SCV**
   1. [TSB Circular 176](https://www.itu.int/md/T22-TSB-CIR-0176/en) (12 February 2024) calls for candidates for chairs and vice-chairs of ITU-T study groups, the Telecommunication Standardization Advisory Group (TSAG) and the Standardization Committee for Vocabulary (SCV) for 2024-2028. Member States, ITU-T Sector Members and the study groups concerned and TSAG are encouraged to help WTSA appoint chairs and vice-chairs of ITU-T study groups, the Telecommunication Standardization Advisory Group (TSAG) and the Standardization Committee for Vocabulary (SCV) by indicating suitable candidates. Candidatures received so far are posted on the [WTSA-24 website](https://www.itu.int/wtsa/2024/candidates/). The TSB Director would very much appreciate receiving nominations by **14 July 2024** but not later than 16 September 2024.
2. **Regional preparatory meetings**
   1. Regional preparatory meetings have been or will be organized by the regional telecommunication organizations in coordination with TSB. The latest updates on the calendar of all planned preparatory meetings are also available on the [WTSA-24 website](https://www.itu.int/wtsa/2024/prepmeet/).
   2. [The first Interregional meeting (IRM)](https://www.itu.int/wtsa/2024/irm/) was held on 18 January 2024 as a virtual meeting, back-to-back with the 3rd TSAG meeting.
   3. [The second IRM](https://www.itu.int/en/ITU-T/wtsa20/irc/Pages/default.aspx) will be held virtually on 25 July 2024, back-to-back with the 4th meeting of TSAG.
   4. A third IRM may be planned virtually in September 2024.
   5. Information about the Inter-regional coordination can be found on its [webpage](https://www.itu.int/wtsa/2024/irm/).
3. **Telecommunication Standardization Advisory Group (TSAG) and ITU-T Study Group preparations for WTSA**
   1. All [ITU-T study groups](https://www.itu.int/en/ITU-T/studygroups) have begun their preparations for WTSA-24.
   2. TSAG has established and is operating two rapporteur groups that are specifically tasked with preparations for WTSA-24: the Rapporteur Group on ITU-T work programme and study group restructuring (RG-WPR); and the Rapporteur Group on WTSA preparations and review of resolutions (RG-WTSA).
   3. TSAG has planned one more meeting and a series of [rapporteur group meetings](https://www.itu.int/net/ITU-T/lists/rgm.aspx?Group=0) to advance preparations for WTSA-24.
4. **Deadline for submitting proposals to WTSA-24**
   1. Delegations are invited to submit contributions to WTSA-24 four weeks before the opening of WTSA-24 (Monday, 16 September 2024), noting that, as decided in Plenipotentiary Conference Resolution 165 (Dubai, 2018), there is a firm submission deadline of 21 calendar days prior to the opening of WTSA-24 (Monday, 23 September 2024 at 2359 hours Geneva time)[[1]](#footnote-2).
5. **Fellowships**
   1. Fellowships per eligible Member State for WTSA-24 will be awarded based on available funding to facilitate participation from Developing Countries. An application must be authorized by the relevant Administration of the ITU Member State.
6. **Advancements of preparations with the Host Country India**
   1. The host country India and the secretariat continue to have regular discussions on:
      1. Implementation of the provisions outlined in the host country agreement.
      2. Logistics arrangements for the several WTSA-24 side events planned.
7. **WTSA website**

The WTSA-24 website <https://www.itu.int/wtsa/2024/> contains all of the above information.

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1. Plenipotentiary Resolution 165 (Rev. Dubai, 2018) “Deadlines for the submission of proposals and procedures for the registration of participants for conferences and assemblies of the Union” “resolves to establish a firm submission deadline for all contributions, with the exception of the deadlines outlined in recognizing a) and b) above, of no later than 21 calendar days before the opening of conferences and assemblies of the Union, including plenipotentiary conferences, so as to ensure timely translation and their thorough consideration by delegations” (emphasis added).  [↑](#footnote-ref-2)