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|  | **Telecommunication Development Advisory Group (TDAG)**  **32nd Meeting, Geneva, Switzerland, 12-16 May 2025** | | A close up of a sign  Description automatically generated |
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|  | | **28 March 2025** | |
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| Chair, Inter-Sector Coordination Group (ISCG) | | | |
| Progress Report | | | |
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| **Summary:**  This document presents the progress of the work of the Inter-Sector Coordination Group (ISCG) since the last report presented to Telecommunication Development Advisory Group (TDAG) in 2024.  **Action required:**  TDAG is invited to note this document and provide guidance as deemed appropriate. | | | |

**Introduction**

The Chair of the Inter-Sector Coordination Group (ISCG) on issues of mutual interest, Mr. Fabio Bigi, would like to present an update on the ISCG's work progress to the Telecommunication Development Advisory Group (TDAG) since its last meeting in May 2024.

The ISCG Chair would also like to inform that the group’s Terms of Reference were updated and approved during its last meeting held on 12 February 2025. A Liaison Statement was sent to the Sectors’ advisory groups for information (see document [TDAG-25/35](https://www.itu.int/md/D22-TDAG32-C-0035/)).

All documents presented and discussed during the ISCG meetings can be access through the [ISCG webpage](https://www.itu.int/en/general-secretariat/Pages/ISCG/default.aspx), including the Terms of Reference and the ISCG contact details.

**Main discussions**

The ISCG continues to address the following topics:

* *Accessibility*: The ISCG has been actively monitoring discussions on enhancing ITU meetings, particularly focusing on remote participation and captioning services.

For 2024, the ITU secretariat reported that captioning was used in 14 ITU-R meetings, 12 ITU-T meetings, 35 ITU-D meetings, as well as in Council and WSIS sessions. While captioning can be provided for any meeting session, its availability is contingent on the allocated budget. There is no centralized policy for captioning across ITU; each meeting organizer decides whether to use human or AI captioning. Currently, human captioning is preferred for its quality, though AI captioning is improving and is expected to become more cost-effective. The cost of human captioning varies, ranging from approximately $750 for three hours of remote captioning to over $2,000 for on-site services. AI captioning has been tested with several suppliers but is not yet approved for official meetings, although there is interest in continuing trials. ITU will continue to test AI tools for captioning and seek feedback from members.

The ISCG has proposed to the Council Working Group for Financial and Human Resources (CGW-FHR) to include a paragraph in all circular letters inviting participants to ITU meetings, highlighting the option to request captioning services (see document [CWG-FHR-20/2](https://www.itu.int/md/S25-CWGFHR20-C-0024/en)).

With the recent retirement of the ISCG’s Accessibility Coordinator, Ms. Andrea Sacks, a new appointment should be agreed upon by the Sectors’ advisory groups.

* *Climate Change*: There is ongoing work related to climate change and artificial intelligence, including the development of recommendations for net-zero transition and the creation of an ITU database on global GHG emissions. Additionally, guidelines are being developed to assess the environmental impact of AI, considering both direct and indirect effects.

During the last meeting, the Climate Change coordinator highlighted the collaboration between ITU-T and ITU-D on these topics and emphasized the potential benefits of AI solutions in areas such as agriculture and energy optimization, particularly for developing countries.

The RAG representative suggested organizing an informal meeting to further discuss this topic, and the to invite the Climate Change coordinator to join the rapporteur group on energy-efficient broadcasting.

* *Virtual meetings / Remote participation:* The Coordinator for this theme continues to monitor the work carried out by the Council Working Group for Financial and Human Resources and at the Council level.

The latest update includes the agreed [Draft guidelines on the management of fully virtual and physical meetings with remote participation at ITU in line with the implementation of Resolution 167 (Rev. Bucharest, 2022)](https://www.itu.int/md/S25-CWGFHR20-C-0003/en). These guidelines will be presented to Council 25 for approval. A Liaison Statement was sent from the ISCG to the Sectors’ advisory groups on this subject (see document [TDAG-25/34](https://www.itu.int/md/D22-TDAG32-C-0034/en)).

Additionally, the ITU secretariat has been asked to look into the requirements for changing remote participants’ rights in the Union’s basic texts.

* *ITU website*: The ISCG has been actively monitoring this theme, specifically requesting the ITU secretariat to provide information on the harmonization of websites and the search system in all official languages of the Union on an equal footing. And to report on updates to all CWG-Languages and ISCG meetings.
* *Sustainable Digital Transformation*: The Coordinator for these theme has recognized the ‘ITU Digital Transformation and Cities Digest’ as a valuable and comprehensive resource on digital transformation, and encouraged ITU-D, ITU-R and the General Secretariat to consider showcasing their activities in the publication. By contributing to the Digest, each Sector can enhance visibility, foster cross-sector collaboration, and provide a more holistic view of ITU’s work in this crucial area.

‘Industry Engagement’ has been agreed upon as a new theme of interest, and the appointment of a Coordinator is pending. It has been noted that, at the Secretariat level, this theme is covered under ‘Membership, Partnerships, and Resource Mobilization’.

Related to the Union’s Strategic and Financial Plans, the ISCG Chair welcomed the Telecommunication Standardization Advisory Group (TSAG) contributions also presented to the Council Working Group for strategic and financial plans 2028-2031 (CWG-SFP) and proposed to endorse the proposals to improve the strategic and financial plans of the Union. The Chair also encouraged RAG and TDAG to take similar action, by participating actively in the strategic and financial plans’ discussions.

The ISCG continues to update the [Mapping of Resolutions](https://www.itu.int/en/general-secretariat/ties/ISCGDocumentLibrary/Liaisons%20Statements%20on%20Inter-Sectoral%20Coordination%20Activities/Mapping-of-Resolutions-Updated%20Dec2024.pdf) and the [Mapping Tables](https://www.itu.int/en/general-secretariat/Pages/ISCG/default.aspx). The latest update was completed following the conclusion of the World Telecommunication Standardization Assembly in October 2024. Updates to Tables 2 and 3 will be made once ITU-T begins its new cycle after the TSAG meeting (26-30 May 2025).

**Conclusion**

TDAG is invited to discuss this document and present comments and proposals to the ISCG on the themes presented, as well as any other potential joint activities or mechanisms to strengthen cooperation.

TDAG is invited to consider, in particular, the appointment of representatives to the vacant coordinations (e. g. Accessibility and Industry engagement).

The next ISCG meeting is proposed to take place during TSAG, with information to be shared through the ISCG website.

The ISCG Chair would like to thank TDAG members for the opportunity to present this report and invites them to contribute to ISCG activities.

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