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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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|  | | **Document** **TDAG-25/****32-E** | |
|  | | **18 October 2024** | |
|  | | **English only** | |
| ITU-R Working Party 5D (IMT Systems) | | | |
| Incoming LS – Liaison Statement to Coordination Committee for Terminology  [Copy to RAG, TSAG, TDAG, ITU-T Study groups 17 and 13 and ITU-R working party 4B] on terms and definitions related to IMT-2020 (5G) technology | | | |
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| **Summary:**  The attached is a liaison statement received for information from ITU-R Working Party 5D on terms and definitions related to IMT-2020 (5G) technology.  **Action required:**  TDAG is invited to note this document and provide guidance as deemed appropriate. | | | |

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| **Radiocommunication Study Groups** | A blue logo with a black background  AI-generated content may be incorrect. |
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| 17 October 2024 |
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| Working Party 5D | |
| Liaison statement to Coordination Committee  for Terminology (Copy to RAG, TSAG, TDAG, ITU-T Study groups 17 and 13  and ITU-R working party 4B) | |
| Terms and definitions related to IMT-2020 (5G) technology | |

Working Party 5D (WP 5D) would like to thank the Coordination Committee for Terminology (CCT) for their liaison statement (Document [5D/240](https://www.itu.int/md/meetingdoc.asp?lang=en&parent=R23-WP5D-C-0240)), in which they seek the views of WP 5D on the proposed definitions and terms related to IMT-2020 as well as on their own suggested modifications to these.

Working Party 5D respectfully brings the attention of the CCT to Resolution [ITU-R 56](https://www.itu.int/pub/publications.aspx?lang=en&parent=R-RES-R.56-3-2023) (“Naming for International Mobile Telecommunications”), which was revised at the Radiocommunication Assembly 2023. This Resolution establishes the naming convention for the radio interface systems for which the ITU-R holds standardization responsibility, specifically via *resolves* 1 through 4 which refer to IMT-2000, IMT-Advanced, IMT-2020 and IMT-2030 radio interface technologies respectively and resolves that the “collective” name applied to such systems/technologies will be “IMT[[1]](#footnote-2)”.

Working Party 5D would therefore recommend to the CCT that the ITU remain consistent across its sectors in following the same IMT nomenclature i.e. IMT-‘x’ and not ‘x’G. Further, it should be noted that the label of IMT-‘x’ inherently implies that the radio interfaces have met the ITU-established criteria related to technical performance, service and spectrum, as evaluated by Independent Evaluation Groups (for example, in the case of IMT-2020, see [evaluation groups](https://www.itu.int/en/ITU-R/study-groups/rsg5/rwp5d/imt-2020/Pages/submission-eval-3rd-release.aspx)). Therefore, care should be taken to ensure that only those radio interface technologies specified in the corresponding ITU-R Recommendations, also as shown in the table, are named IMT-‘x’ (the Recommendation corresponding to IMT-2030 is expected to be completed in 2030). Other radio interface technologies, which might be considered ‘x’G outside of the ITU but are not contained in the above mentioned ITU-R Recommendations, should not be named IMT-‘x’ in ITU documents.

Regarding the definition of the term “IMT-2020 system” provided by ITU-T SG 17, WP 5D, whose mandate is the *terrestrial* component of IMT, concurs with the CCT that the definition of IMT-2020 system should not mention “3GPP” since such systems could also be based on the specifications developed by organizations other than 3GPP. Therefore, WP 5D recommends replacing the term “3GPP” by “IMT” in the definition.

Working Party 5D hopes to continue such fruitful collaboration with the CCT and other Study Groups of the ITU. The next meeting of ITU-R WP 5D is scheduled for 3-14 February 2025.

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| **Status:** For action |  |
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1. It should be noted that, in commercial (or marketing) terms, which are outside the mandate of ITU-R, these radio interfaces bear different names, as shown in the table directly below:

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   | IMT-2000 | 3G | [Rec. ITU-R M.1457](https://www.itu.int/rec/R-REC-M.1457/en) |
   | IMT-Advanced | 4G | [Rec. ITU-R M.2012](https://www.itu.int/rec/r-rec-m.2012) |
   | IMT-2020 | 5G | [Rec. ITU-R M.2150](https://www.itu.int/rec/R-REC-M.2150/en) |
   | IMT-2030 | 6G | To be developed |

   [↑](#footnote-ref-2)