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| **Radiocommunication Advisory Group Geneva, 5-8 May 2015** |  |
| **INTERNATIONAL TELECOMMUNICATION UNION** |  |
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|  | **Document RAG15-1/22-E** |
| **29 April 2015** |
| **English only** |
| Chairman of Study Group 6 | |
| PROpOSED revision of resolution ITU-R 6-1 to include procedures for setting up Intersector Rapporteur Groups | |

At its meeting on 23 February 2015, Study Group 6 considered a contribution from a Member State (Doc. 6/322) and agreed to request its Chairman to bring to the attention of RAG-15 the need to submit to the RA-15 for its approval, the proposed revision of Resolution ITU-R 6-1 to include procedures for setting up Intersector Rapporteur Groups.

Background

With the current gradual convergence of radiocommunications and telecommunications, an increasing number of technical studies on multimedia applications are now of interest to both the ITU-R and the ITU-T Sectors, and could beneficially be jointly studied by the two Sectors.

In January 2012, RA-12 received a contribution that followed this trend and proposed a revision of Resolution ITU-R 6-1 to include procedures for setting up Intersector Rapporteur Groups, and it tasked the RAG to analyse that proposal.

The subsequent meeting of the RAG, in June 2012 received the proposal in the form of contribution RAG-12-1/12 “Proposed revisions to Resolution ITU-R 6-1 and WTSA Resolution 18 to include procedures for setting up Intersector Rapporteur Groups”. Consequently, RAG appointed a Correspondence Group to analyse that contribution, in the expectation that the WTSA would decide to approve a parallel contribution to revise Resolution 18.

Indeed, at the end of the same year, in November 2012, WTSA-12 received and approved a contribution, which proposed to add Annex C to WTSA Resolution 18, detailing the provisions needed to allow setting up Intersector Rapporteur Groups (IRG) within a formal framework that would permit Study Groups and Working Parties in different ITU Sectors to cooperate in the study of subjects of common interest.

In May 2013, the chairman of the Correspondence Group set up by RAG-12 provided RAG-13 with the Correspondence Group report (Doc. RAG-13-1/9), which supported the proposed revision of Resolution ITU-R 6-1 originally submitted to the RA-12 and to RAG-12. The report also pointed out that the proposed revision to Resolution ITU-R 6-1 was well aligned with the revision of WTSA Resolution 18, which the WTSA had approved.

The proposed revision of Resolution ITU-R 6-1 was also supported by a contribution of the Chairman of SG 6 (Doc. RAG-13-1/12) to the same meeting of the RAG, which reported that ITU‑T SG 9 had already invited ITU-R Working Party 6C to form an Intersector Rapporteur Group (IRG) on the subject of audiovisual quality assessment (IRG-AVQA). The contribution of the Chairman of SG 6 suggested that, in anticipation of the modification of Resolution ITU-R 6-1 by the 2015 Radiocommunication Assembly, RAG should provide interim approval to WP 6C’s participation in that IRG, working according to the procedure set out in Annex 6 to WTSA Resolution ITU-T 18.

The Summary of Conclusions of that RAG meeting in May 2013 reports the following advice of the RAG:

“RAG noted the provision made for Inter-Sector Rapporteur Groups (IRGs) in Annex C of WTSA Resolution 18 and, pending approval of corresponding provisions in Resolution ITU‑R 6, advised that on an interim basis IRGs could be established between ITU‑R SG 6 and ITU‑T SG 9 for joint studies on topics such as audiovisual quality assessment and between ITU‑R SG 6 and ITU‑T SG 12 on audiovisual metadata, and with other matters with ITU-T as appropriate. The Director was invited to prepare a liaison to TSAG to inform ITU‑T of this conclusion. Other Study Groups might follow this example on an interim basis in consultation with the Director of BR.”

Proposal

The purpose of this contribution is to call the attention of the RAG on the need that the revision of Resolution ITU-R 6-1 that it endorsed at its 2013 meeting should be submitted for the approval of RA-15, underlining its importance in further improving efficient coordination and harmonization of studies within the ITU, particularly when those studies concern technical subjects of common interest to various Study Groups of the Union.

Current Intersector Rapporteur Groups

Three Intersector Rapporteur Groups are currently already operating on an interim basis between Study Groups in the ITU-R and the ITU-T Sectors, namely:

– IRG-AVQA (Audio Visual Quality Assessment), among ITU-R WP 6C and ITU‑T SGs 9 and 12

– IRG-AVA (Audiovisual Media Accessibility), among ITU-R WP 6C and ITU‑T SGs 9 and 16

– IRG-IBB (Integrated broadband-broadcast systems), between ITU-R WP 6B and ITU‑T SG 9.

Furthermore, it is expected that some additional IRGs will be set up in the near future, to address other subjects of common interest to the two Sectors.

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