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| **Radiocommunication Advisory GroupGeneva, 25-27 May 2020** | C:\Users\murphy\AppData\Local\Temp\Temp1_ITU logo Entire package.zip\jpg\ITU official logo_blue_RGB.jpg |
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|  | **Document RAG20/18-E** |
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| Japan |
| Consideration in referencing external standards from an ITU-R Recommendation |

# 1 Introduction

Resolution ITU-R 9-6 stipulates in its *resolves* 2 that *ITU-R Recommendations and Reports, as determined by the Study Group, may reference approved standards which are maintained by other organizations*. This would facilitate the work of Study Groups in developing ITU-R texts. However, referencing documents of external organizations does not necessarily mean simple citations of (a) specific external standard(s).

Different approaches may be possible in developing an ITU-R Recommendation, the specifications of which are consistent and harmonized with external standards, including

1. Simple citations of external standards in the *recommends* part.
2. Citations of external standards in the *recommends* part together with reproductions of the specifications in the external standards in a suitable form as an ITU-R Recommendation in (an) Annex(es).
3. Without any citations of external standards in the *recommends* part but reproduction of the specifications in the external standards in a suitable form as an ITU-R Recommendation.

# 2 Requirements for an ITU-R Recommendation

1. An ITU-R Recommendation should not be a simple rubber-stamped product but a value-added one.

A simple citation of external standards in the *recommends* part does not provide added value. Examples of a value-added ITU-R Recommendation that refers to external standards include:

* When multiple external standards need to be used to conduct a specific task or to implement a specific radiocommunication application, an ITU-R Recommendation may provide the necessary information and guidance.
* When a Recommendation provides information on various systems based on external standards relating to one particular radio application, it should include, where possible, an evaluation of the recommended systems, as stipulated in NOTE 1 to A.2.6.1 of Resolution ITU-R 1-8.
* When the scope of an external standard is wide or versatile in its applicability, an ITU-R Recommendation may provide necessary information and guidance for use of the external standard in a specific radiocommunication application.
1. An ITU-R Recommendation should be self-contained as much as possible.

Self-contained ITU-R Recommendations are free from the following problems which simple citations of external standards would have:

* External standards may contain normative references to other standards. Reviewing such normative standards is not easy.
* External standards referenced in an ITU-R Recommendation may be revised in the future, and this can occur without the consent of a relevant ITU-R Study Group who developed the Recommendation.
* The ITU-R Study Group may consider revising an ITU-R Recommendation that refers to external standards. Revising the Recommendation is difficult until the referenced external standards are revised as desired by the Study Group.
* Referenced external standards are usually published in English only. Consequently, the essential part of an ITU-R Recommendation will be provided in English only without translations to the other five official languages.
* Not all external standards are developed under “due process.”

# 3 Proposal

Japan proposes that the RAG should provide the following guidance for the work of Study Groups on developing an ITU-R Recommendation that refers to external standards based on the aforementioned discussion. The guidelines developed by the Director in accordance with *instructs the Director* 1 in Resolution ITU-R 9-6 should also be updated to reflect the discussion:

* A simple citation of external standards in the *recommends* part should be avoided, and value-added Recommendations should be developed.
* An ITU-R Recommendation should be self-contained as much as possible.
* When no ITU-R Recommendations can be used for normative references, specific versions of external standards may be used instead, with special care not to introduce conflicts.

Japan also notes that drafting common texts jointly between ITU-T and ISO/IEC has been common practice. ITU-R may consider a similar practice — not only with ISO/IEC but also with other standards developing organizations that comply with due process standards development.

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