RESOLUTION ITU-R 75

Strengthening coordination and cooperation among the three ITU Sectors on matters of mutual interest

(2023)

The ITU Radiocommunication Assembly,

recalling

a)   that the responsibilities of the ITU Radiocommunication (ITU-R), Telecommunication Standardization (ITU-T) and Telecommunication Development (ITU-D) Sectors are enshrined in the ITU Constitution and the ITU Convention, in particular in No. 119 of the Constitution and Nos. 151-154 (relating to ITU-R), No. 193 (relating to ITU-T), Nos. 211 and 214 (relating to ITU-D) and No. 215 of the Convention;

b)   Resolution 191 (Rev. Bucharest, 2022) of the Plenipotentiary Conference, on strategy for the coordination of efforts among the three Sectors of the Union;

c)   Resolution 123 (Rev. Bucharest, 2022) of the Plenipotentiary Conference, on bridging the standardization gap between the developing[1] and developed countries;

d)   Resolution 18 (Rev. Geneva, 2022) of the World Telecommunication Standardization Assembly (WTSA), on principles and procedures for the allocation of work to, and strengthening coordination and cooperation among, ITU-R, ITU-T and ITU-D;

e)   Resolution 59 (Rev. Kigali, 2022) of the World Telecommunication Development Conference (WTDC), on strengthening coordination and cooperation among the three ITU Sectors on matters of mutual interest;

f)   Resolution 44 (Rev. Geneva, 2022) of WTSA, on bridging the standardization gap between developing and developed countries;

g)   Resolution 5 (Rev. Kigali, 2022) of WTDC, on enhanced participation by developing countries in the activities of the Union,

considering

a)   that a basic principle for cooperation and collaboration among the three ITU Sectors is the need to avoid duplication of activities of the Sectors and to ensure that work is undertaken efficiently and effectively, respecting the specific functions defined in the Constitution and the Convention for each Sector;

b)   that there are a growing number of issues of mutual interest and concern to all Sectors, in accordance with Resolution 191 (Rev. Bucharest, 2022);

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[1] These include the least developed countries, small island developing states, landlocked developing countries and countries with economies in transition.

c)   that the Inter-Sectoral Coordination Task Force (ISC-TF), comprising senior management from the General Secretariat, the Telecommunication Development Bureau (BDT), the Radiocommunication Bureau (BR) and the Telecommunication Standardization Bureau, considers options for improving cooperation and coordination at the secretariat level;

d)   that the Inter-Sector Coordination Group on issues of mutual interest (ISCG), which is composed of representatives from the three advisory groups, works to identify subjects of common interest and mechanisms to enhance collaboration and cooperation among the Sectors and the General Secretariat, and considers reports from the Directors of the Bureaux and ISC-TF on options for improving cooperation and coordination within the secretariat,

recognizing

a)   that there is a need to improve the participation of developing countries in the work of ITU;

b)   that interaction and coordination in the joint holding of seminars, workshops, forums, symposia and so forth have yielded positive results in terms of saving financial and human resources;

c)   that electronic remote participation will reduce travel costs and will facilitate wider participation of developing countries in the work of ITU-R meetings that require their attendance;

d)   that the following are substantial areas of ITU-D and ITU-R mutual interest: participation of countries, particularly developing countries, in spectrum management (Resolution 9 (Rev. Kigali, 2022) of WTDC); deployment of broadband access technologies in developing countries; telecommunications/information and communication technologies (ICTs) for rural and remote areas; migration and adoption of digital broadcasting and implementation of new services (ITU-D Study Question 2/1); utilization of telecommunications/ICTs for disaster risk reduction and management; ICTs and the environment (ITU-D Study Question 6/2); human exposure to electromagnetic fields (ITU-D Study Question 7/2); telecommunication infrastructure sharing; and cognitive radio systems (CRS),

taking into account

a)   the expanding sphere of joint studies between the three Sectors and the need for coordination and cooperation among them in this regard;

b)   the growing number of issues of mutual interest and concern to the three Sectors,

resolves

1   that the Radiocommunication Advisory Group (RAG) shall continue to collaborate with the Telecommunication Standardization Advisory Group (TSAG) and the Telecommunication Development Advisory Group, meeting jointly as necessary, to continue the review of new and existing work and its distribution among ITU-R, ITU-T and ITU-D for approval by Member States, in accordance with the procedures laid down for the approval of new and/or revised Questions, as stipulated in Resolution 191 (Rev. Bucharest, 2022);

2   that the principles for the allocation of work to ITU-R and ITU-T (see Annex 1) should be used to give guidance in the allocation of work to the Sectors;

3   that, if considerable responsibilities in both ITU-R and ITU-T in a particular subject are identified, either:

a)   the procedure as given in Annex 2 should be applied, or

b)   a joint meeting may be arranged by the Directors, or

c)   the matter should be studied by relevant Study Groups of both Sectors with appropriate coordination (see Annex 3 and Annex 4);

4   to continue facilitating the participation of developing countries through extensive use of remote participation by electronic means, as appropriate, at meetings of ITU-R Study Groups, Working Parties and Task Groups, and BDT should be urged to consider possibilities for providing developing countries with such means;

5   to cooperate with the Director of BDT in enhancing the ability of the ITU regional and area offices to provide support for Study Group activities, as well as the necessary expertise, in order to strengthen cooperation and coordination with the relevant regional organizations and to facilitate the participation of all Member States and Sector Members in the activities of ITU-R;

6   that the Director of BR, assisted by the Radiocommunication Study Groups, shall provide BDT with the necessary assistance in the development and updating of Handbooks and ITU-D Reports;

7   that the Director of BR, assisted by the Radiocommunication Study Groups, shall contribute to and participate in the work of the ITU-D Study Groups when considering relevant studies to which they may give valuable inputs;

8   that, in the process of cooperating actively with BDT, all radiocommunication activities of the Union in the field of telecommunication development should be closely coordinated in the interest of achieving efficiency and effectiveness and avoiding duplication of effort,

invites the Directors of the Bureaux

1   to continue to create cooperation mechanisms at secretariat level on matters of mutual interest to the three Sectors;

2   to strictly observe the provisions of *resolves* 3 and to identify ways and means of strengthening this cooperation,

invites the Telecommunication Development Advisory Group, in collaboration with the Radiocommunication Advisory Group and the Telecommunication Standardization Advisory Group,

to continue to assist ISCG in identifying subjects of mutual interest to the three Sectors and the necessary mechanisms to enhance their cooperation and collaboration, paying particular attention to the interests of the developing countries,

instructs the Radiocommunication Study Groups

to continue cooperation with the Study Groups of the other two Sectors so as to avoid duplication of effort and proactively make use of the results of work done by the Study Groups of those two Sectors,

instructs the Chairs of the Study Groups and the Director of the Radiocommunication Bureau

to take all appropriate actions for the implementation of this Resolution by, *inter alia*, motivating participants in ITU-R to provide assistance to ITU-D,

invites Member States and Sector Members

1   to support efforts to improve inter-Sector coordination;

2   to actively participate in the implementation of this Resolution by, *inter alia*, providing experts to assist developing countries, by contributing to information meetings, seminars and workshops, by providing the necessary expertise in matters under consideration by the ITU-D Study Groups and by hosting trainees from developing countries.

ANNEX 1

Principles for the allocation of work to the Radiocommunication and Telecommunication Standardization Sectors

1   General

Principle 1

The approach to work in a Sector needs to be task-oriented, with an appropriate Study Group (or designated group) responsible for coordination. Further assignment of detailed tasks within a given work item or subject area would then occur, with special arrangements for handling work that crosses Sector boundaries.

Work planning may start with a service or system concept, and would include development of overall network or service architectures and identification of interfaces through to more detailed specification and linking of tasks.

Activity related to ongoing review of existing Recommendations needs to be accommodated as a general area of work.

2   Roles of the Sectors

Within a task-oriented approach, experts of both Sectors should be able to work as part of a well-managed team.

Principle 2

Telecommunication Standardization Sector work includes interworking arrangements required for either radio-based equipment within a public telecommunication network or radio systems requiring interconnection for the carriage of public correspondence.

NOTE 1 – Public correspondence: any telecommunication which offices and stations must, by reason of their being at the disposal of the public, accept for transmission.

In addition, the Recommendations developed by the Telecommunication Standardization Sector (ITU-T) need to provide for the capabilities required to support the particular characteristics of radio systems. Similarly, the work of the Telecommunication Radiocommunication Sector (ITU-R) should complement the work of ITU-T, especially where it relates to the use of radio-based technology in telecommunication networks. The two Sectors will therefore both need to consider interface questions.

The term "public correspondence" should not be interpreted too restrictively in Principle 2 (and elsewhere). The word "includes" is intended to imply that the carriage of related classes of traffic (e.g. government, service) or user applications are not excluded.

Principle 3

Radiocommunication Sector work related to network standards includes studies addressing the characteristics, performance, operation and spectrum aspects of radio-based equipment or radio systems as necessary to support the interconnection and interworking arrangements identified by the Telecommunication Standardization Sector.

The characteristics of radio-based equipment refer to those characteristics dealing with the equipment and the physical environment in which the equipment must work. Examples include performance, modulation, coding, error correction, maintenance and other aspects that may affect the interface signals and protocols that are able to be supported.

Principle 4

Before specific tasks are allocated, services, network architectures and interfaces should be identified as clearly as possible.

For example, ITU-T and ITU-R would jointly identify interfaces to be supported by the system under study. ITU-R will also need to identify the scope and capabilities of radio systems needed to meet the interface requirements and achieve optimum spectrum/orbit utilization.

Principle 5

Work unique to the Radiocommunication Sector covers matters related to spectrum and orbit utilization and efficiency and, *inter alia*, all aspects of services not used for public correspondence, for example radiodetermination, independent mobile radio services, broadcasting, safety and distress operation, remote sensing, amateur radio and radio astronomy.

Principle 6

The studies in one Sector must complement those of the other Sector where a task crosses Sector boundaries, noting that, in some cases, joint studies may be required as the most practical option. To guide actual work allocations, the coordinating Sector (as user) could produce statements on "desirable/required characteristics". The potential provider Sector (or Study Group) could on its own initiative, or in response, develop statements of technology capability in the form of "achievable/typical characteristics".

Mutual dependency will require continued cooperation where both Sectors have an interest in the work. In establishing tasks towards standards for a service based on technology of both Sectors, the coordinating Sector must make best use of established sources of skill and knowledge. Joint ad hoc groups could be established as needed to ensure the best possible progress and information exchange, where necessary.

3   Coordination on new study Questions

Coordination on study Questions is needed. A key element of such arrangements is the maintenance of a satisfactory pace, quality of output and avoidance of delays in progressing current work.

Principle 7

Standardization work should continue in both Sectors while suitable arrangements are developed and put in place to maintain the pace and quality of output.

Coordination on study Questions should be monitored and reviewed by the Advisory Groups for the purpose of ensuring timely and progressive output.

Some new study Questions may include components which fall into both Sectors. In line with the project approach and efficient management practice, such Questions should be revised so that the tasks for each Sector can be clearly identified or joint arrangements should be established, if necessary.

Principle 8

Study Groups should continue as efficient and effective sources of special skills in the task-oriented environment.

Task orientation should not lead to numerous, independent project groups, which potentially duplicate or diverge from established work. Where it is appropriate to establish a special group (e.g. to address interface or interworking issues), it should draw skills from the relevant Study Groups, appropriately limiting the scope of the project group, while following the guidelines in *resolves* 3. In this way, compatibility and consistency across multiple applications is maintained. Recommendations from such special groups, in any case, have to be approved by the appropriate Study Group prior to submission to the ITU Members for approval.

ANNEX 2

Procedural method of cooperation

With respect to *resolves* 3a), the following procedure should be applied:

a)   the Radiocommunication and Telecommunication Standardization Advisory Groups may jointly nominate the Sector which will lead in the work and will finally approve the deliverable;

b)   the lead Sector will request the other Sector to indicate those requirements which it considers essential for integration in the deliverable;

c)   the lead Sector will base its work on these essential requirements and integrate them in its draft deliverable;

d)   during the process of development of the required deliverable the lead Sector shall consult with the other Sector in case it meets difficulties with these essential requirements. In case of agreement on revised essential requirements the revised requirements shall be the basis for further work;

e)   when the deliverable concerned comes to maturity, the lead Sector shall seek once more the views of the other Sector.

In the determination of the work responsibility it may be appropriate to progress the work by drawing jointly on the skills of both Sectors.

ANNEX 3

Coordination of radiocommunication and telecommunication standardization activities through inter-Sector coordination groups

With respect to *resolves* 3c), the following procedure shall be applied when two or more Study Groups of the Radiocommunication and Telecommunication Standardization Sectors are concerned in the same aspects of a specific technical subject:

a)   the joint meeting of the Advisory Groups as indicated in *resolves* 1 may, in exceptional cases, establish an inter-Sector coordination group (ICG) to coordinate the work of both Sectors and to assist the Advisory Groups in coordinating the related activity of their respective Study Groups;

b)   the joint meeting shall, at the same time, nominate the Sector which will lead in the work;

c)   the mandate of each ICG shall be clearly defined by the joint meeting, based on the particular circumstances and issues at the time the group is established; the joint meeting shall also establish a target date for termination of the ICG;

d)   the ICG shall designate a Chair and a Vice-Chair, one representing each Sector;

e)   the ICG shall be open to Members of both Sectors in accordance with Nos. 86-88 and 110 to 112 of the ITU Constitution;

f)   the ICG shall not develop Recommendations;

g)   the ICG shall prepare reports on its coordinating activities to be presented to each Sector's Advisory Group; these reports shall be submitted by the two Directors to their respective Sectors;

h)   an ICG may also be established by the Radiocommunication Assembly or by the World Telecommunication Standardization Assembly following a recommendation by the Advisory Group of the other Sector;

i)   the cost of an ICG shall be supported by the two Sectors on an equal basis and the Directors shall include in the budget of their respective Sectors budgetary provisions for such meetings.

ANNEX 4

Coordination of the radiocommunication and telecommunication standardization activities through inter-Sector rapporteur groups

With respect to *resolves 3c)*, the following procedure shall be applied when work on a particular subject could be best performed by bringing together technology experts from the Study Groups or Working Parties concerned of the Radiocommunication (ITU-R) and Telecommunication Standardization (ITU-T) Sectors to cooperate on a peer-to-peer basis in a technical group:

a)   the Study Groups or Working Parties concerned in the two Sectors may, in special cases, agree by mutual consultation to establish an inter-Sector rapporteur group (IRG) to coordinate the work of their Study Groups or Working Parties on some specific technical issue, informing the Telecommunication Standardization Advisory Group and Radiocommunication Advisory Group of this action through a liaison statement;

b)   the Study Groups or Working Parties concerned in the two Sectors shall, at the same time, agree on clearly defined terms of reference for the IRG, and establish a target date for completion of the work and termination of the IRG;

c)   the Study Groups or Working Parties concerned in the two Sectors shall also designate the Chair (or co-Chairs) of the IRG, taking into account the requested specific expertise and ensuring equitable representation of all the Study Groups or Working Parties concerned in each Sector;

d)   being a Rapporteur Group, the IRG shall be regulated by the provisions applicable to Rapporteur Groups in Resolution ITU-R 1 and in Recommendation ITU-T A.1; participation is limited to members of ITU-T and ITU-R;

e)   in fulfilling its mandate, an IRG may develop draft new Recommendations or draft revisions to Recommendations, as well as draft new Reports or draft revisions to Reports, to be submitted to its parent Study Groups or Working Parties for further processing as appropriate;

f)   the results of the IRG's work should represent the agreed consensus of the Group or reflect the diversity of views of the participants in the Group;

g)   an IRG shall also prepare reports on its activities, to be submitted to each meeting of its parent Study Groups or Working Parties;

h)   an IRG shall normally work by correspondence or through teleconference, however it may occasionally take the opportunity of meetings of its parent Study Groups or Working Parties to hold short face-to-face concurrent meetings if this is feasible without support by the Sectors.