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| **Council 2021 Virtual consultation of councillors, 8-18 June 2021** |  |
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| **Agenda item: PL-2.08** | **Document C21/24-E** |
| **7 Avril 2021** |
| **Original: English** |
| Report by the Secretary-General | |
| preparations for the world telecommunication standardization assembly (wtsa-20) | |

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| Summary  The document reports about the status of preparations for the World Telecommunication Standardization Assembly (WTSA-20) and the Global Standards Symposium (GSS-20).  Action required  The Council is invited **to note** the report.  \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_  References  [*https://www.itu.int/en/ITU-T/wtsa20*](https://www.itu.int/en/ITU-T/wtsa20) |

1. **Venue and date**

1.1 Council [Decision 608](https://www.itu.int/md/S19-CL-C-0125/en) initially adopted at the 2019 Session of Council first decided on the convening of the next WTSA in Hyderabad, India, from 16 to 27 November 2020.

1.2 The first virtual consultation of councillors in June 2020, Council Decision 608 was modified and approved by correspondence to reschedule the next WTSA in Hyderabad, India, from 23 February to 5 March 2021, subject to the restoration of normal work and travel conditions in India and in other Member States.

1.3 The second virtual consultation of councillors in November 2020, Council Decision 608 was further modified and approved by correspondence to reschedule the next WTSA in Hyderabad, India, from 1 to 9 March 2022, subject to the restoration of normal work and travel conditions in India and in other Member States.

1.4 Following the successful consultation among ITU Member States carried out by Circular Letter [No. 20/51](https://www.itu.int/dms_pub/itu-s/md/20/sg/cir/S20-SG-CIR-0051!!PDF-E.pdf) of 22 December 2020, [CL-21/3](https://www.itu.int/md/S21-SG-CIR-0003/en) of 3 February 2021 announced the agreement of the required majority of the Member States of ITU (106 positive replies, 1 negative reply, 1 abstention), in accordance with No. 42 of the ITU Convention.

1.5 As a result, the next **WTSA** is planned in **Hyderabad India** from **1 to 9 March 2022**, preceded by the Global Standards Symposium **(GSS) on 28 February 2022** and subject to the restoration of normal work and travel conditions in India and in other Member States.

**2. Invitation letters**

2.1 Invitation letters for WTSA-20 and GSS-20 have been sent to:

* [Administrations of the Member States of the Union](https://www.itu.int/md/S21-SG-CIR-0006/en)
* [ITU-T Sector Members](https://www.itu.int/md/S21-DM-CIR-01002/en)
* [ITU Academia](https://www.itu.int/md/S21-DM-CIR-01003/en)
* [UN + Specialized Agencies; IAEA; Regional telecommunication organizations; Intergovernmental organizations operating satellite systems; Other regional or international organizations](https://www.itu.int/md/S21-DM-CIR-01004/en)
* [State of Palestine](https://www.itu.int/md/S21-DM-CIR-01001/en)

**3. Candidates for chairmanships of ITU-T study groups, TSAG, and SCV**

3.1 [Corrigendum 2 to TSB Circular 202](https://www.itu.int/md/T17-TSB-CIR-0202/en) (4 February 2021) calls for candidates for chairs and vice-chairs of ITU-T study groups, the Telecommunication Standardization Advisory Group (TSAG) and the Standardization Committee for Vocabulary (SCV) for 2022-2024. Member States, ITU-T Sector Members and the study groups concerned and TSAG are encouraged to help WTSA appoint chairs and vice-chairs of ITU-T study groups, the Telecommunication Standardization Advisory Group (TSAG) and the Standardization Committee for Vocabulary (SCV) by indicating suitable candidates. Candidatures received so far are posted on the [WTSA-20 website](https://www.itu.int/en/ITU-T/wtsa20/candidates/Pages/ms.aspx). The TSB Director would very much appreciate receiving nominations by **30 November 2021**, but no later than 14 February 2022.

**4. Regional preparatory meetings**

4.1 Regional preparatory meetings have been or will be organized by the regional telecommunication organizations in coordination with TSB. The latest updates on the calendar of all planned preparatory meetings are also available on the [WTSA‑20 website](https://www.itu.int/en/ITU-T/wtsa20/prepmeet/Pages/default.aspx).

4.2 [The first Interregional meeting (IRM)](https://www.itu.int/en/ITU-T/wtsa20/irc/Pages/default.aspx) was held on 18 September 2020 as a virtual meeting, back-to-back with the 6th TSAG meeting.

4.3 [The second IRM](https://www.itu.int/en/ITU-T/wtsa20/irc/Pages/default.aspx) was held 8 January 2021, back-to-back with the 7th meeting of TSAG.

4.4 A third IRM is planned on 21 October 2021 back-to-back with the 8th meeting of TSAG.

4.5 Information about the Inter-regional coordination can be found on the WTSA-20 [webpage](https://www.itu.int/en/ITU-T/wtsa20/irc/Pages/default.aspx).

**5. Telecommunication Standardization Advisory Group (TSAG) and ITU-T Study Group preparations for WTSA**

5.1 The second virtual consultation of councillors in November 2020 noted in [Document VC-2\12](https://www.itu.int/md/S20-CLVC2-C-0012/en) that:

• TSAG would hold three meetings prior to WTSA to provide continuity of work for ITU-T and prepare for WTSA;

• An interregional meeting would be held prior to each TSAG meeting to further develop consensus among the regions;

• TSB would revisit the calendar of ITU-T study group meetings in 2021;

• TSAG would be virtual and take decisions by consensus.

5.2All [ITU-T study groups](https://www.itu.int/en/ITU-T/studygroups/2017-2020/Pages/default.aspx) have prepared Parts 1 and 2 of their reports to WTSA as of December 2020.

5.3[TSAG](https://www.itu.int/en/ITU-T/tsag/2017-2020/Pages/default.aspx) held a virtual meeting from 11-18 January 2021 where its agenda was primarily focused on the ITU-T work continuity plan in document [VC2/3](https://www.itu.int/md/S20-CLVC2-C-0003/en).

5.4 TSAG endorsed the set of Questions for all the ITU-T study groups, as published in [TSAG Reports 12-22](https://www.itu.int/md/T17-TSAG-R). These Questions became effective on 18 January 2021, for the remainder of the study period as announced in [TSB Circular 295](https://www.itu.int/md/T17-TSB-CIR-0295/en).

5.5 TSB consulted with the study group chairmen and adjusted the [2021 schedule of ITU-T meeting](https://www.itu.int/md/T17-TSAG-210111-TD-GEN-0938/en).

5.6 TSAG planned a series of [Rapporteur Meetings](https://www.itu.int/net/ITU-T/lists/rgm.aspx?Group=0) to advance the preparations for WTSA and TSAG will have its next meeting 25-29 October 2021.

**6. Deadline for submitting proposals to WTSA-20**

6.1 Delegations are invited to submit contributions to WTSA-20 four weeks before the opening of WTSA-20 (Monday, 31 January 2022), noting that, as decided in PP-18 Resolution 165, there is a firm submission deadline of 21 calendar days prior to the opening of WTSA-20 (Monday, 7 February 2022 at 2359 hours Geneva time).[[1]](#footnote-1),[[2]](#footnote-2)

**7. Fellowships**

7.1 Fellowships per eligible Member State for WTSA-20 will be awarded based on available funding to facilitate participation from Developing Countries. An application must be authorized by the relevant Administration of the ITU Member State.

**8. Advancements of preparations with the Host Country India**

8.1 The host country India and the secretariat continue to have regular discussions on:

8.1.1 Identifying a candidate Chairman for WTSA.

8.1.2 Finalizing the WTSA and GSS logos.

8.1.3 Finalizing the host country agreement.

8.1.4 Developing a contingency plan for WTSA should the restoration of normal work and travel conditions in India and in other Member States not be possible in March 2022.

**9. WTSA website**

The WTSA-20 website <https://www.itu.int/en/ITU-T/wtsa20> contains all of the above information.

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1. Plenipotentiary Resolution 165 (Rev. Dubai, 2018) "Deadlines for the submission of proposals and procedures for the registration of participants for conferences and assemblies of the Union" "resolves to establish a firm submission deadline for all contributions, with the exception of the deadlines outlined in recognizing a) and b) above, of no later than 21 calendar days before the opening of conferences and assemblies of the Union, including plenipotentiary conferences, so as to ensure timely translation and their thorough consideration by delegations" (emphasis added). [↑](#footnote-ref-1)
2. WTSA-16 Resolution 1 (Rev. Hammamet, 2016) says: "6.1 Contributions should be submitted not later than one month before the opening of WTSA, and at any event the submission deadline for all contributions to WTSA shall be not later than 14 calendar days before the opening of WTSA in order to allow for their timely translation and thorough consideration by delegations. TSB shall immediately publish all contributions submitted to WTSA in their original language(s) on the WTSA website, even before their translation into the other official languages of the Union." (Emphasis added) [↑](#footnote-ref-2)