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| **Council 2022 Geneva, 21-31 March 2022** |  |
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| **Agenda item: PL 2.5** | **Document C22/24-E** |
| **16 March 2022** |
| **Original: English** |
| Report by the Secretary-General | |
| REPORT ON THE GLOBAL STANDARDS SYMPOSIUM (GSS-20) AND THE WORLD TELECOMMUNICATION STANDARDIZATION ASSEMBLY (WTSA-20) | |

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| Summary  This document provides a summary of GSS-20 and WTSA-20.  Action required  The Council is requested to **note** the report. Section 2.2 will be discussed under the budget agenda item.  \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_  References  <https://wtsa.itu.int/>  <https://gss.itu.int/>  [Report of Committee 2 (Budget Control) to Plenary](https://www.itu.int/md/T17-WTSA.20-C-0055/en)  [C22/INF/14](https://www.itu.int/md/S22-CL-INF-0014/en) |

# 1 Global Standards Symposium (GSS-20)

1.1 The [fourth Global Standards Symposium (GSS-20)](https://gss.itu.int/wp-content/uploads/2022/02/2022-02-28-GSS-20-Conclusions-E.pdf) held on 28 February 2022, in Geneva (Switzerland), brought together thought leaders in the standardization sphere to deliberate on international standards to enable digital transformation and achieve the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

1.2 GSS-20 concluded with an [outcome document](https://www.itu.int/md/T17-WTSA.20-C-0043/en), which was adopted by WTSA-20, and which has shown how standards can change the world by harnessing emerging technologies, innovation and artificial intelligence to support industries like healthcare, financial services, road safety, and agriculture.

1.3 GSS-20 laid the foundation for how stakeholders could work in collaboration to develop international standards, guidelines and frameworks for driving digital transformation for the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) elucidated in the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, the Glasgow Climate Pact, the Paris Agreement, and the World Summit on Information Society (WSIS) Action Lines.

1.4 More than 700 participants of GSS-20 contributed to the discussions, exchanged views on what they perceived to be the key elements to be considered for these frameworks, and also underscored which of these elements should be assigned priority in terms of ITU’s standardization work during the next study period (2022–2024). The main discussions during this landmark event covered a diversity of topics, including smart cities and communities, digital agriculture, digital inclusion, AI for road safety, autonomous driving, financial inclusion, sustainability, accessibility, and health care, in the context of technology-centric standardization.

1.5 The symposium comprised seven sessions dedicated to the theme of “International Standards to enable the digital transformation and achieve the SDGs” and a U4SSC ceremony with cities during which a new [Case Study on the implementation of U4SSC KPIs in Daegu](https://u4ssc.itu.int/case-studies/) was launched.

1.6 GSS-20 recognizing the crucial role played by standards in enhancing digital transformation and achieving the SDGs, invited ITU to: continue to support the activities of the United for Smart Sustainable Cities (U4SSC) to accelerate the digital transformation of cities; promote the activities AI for Road Safety initiative, to support in particular developing countries to fully benefit from available technologies aimed at improving road safety, including support of data collection; to support the outcomes of the Financial Inclusion Global Initiative and the development of technical standards that aim to lower the cost of ICTs, enhance the resiliency of digital infrastructure, and support high levels of security for financial transactions; as well as foster collaboration among standards bodies to address the disparity between developing and developed countries in their ability to access and implement standards and frameworks to accelerate digital transformation, and participate in their development on an equal footing through instruments such as the ITU Bridging the Standardization Gap (BSG) Programme.

# 2 WTSA-20

## 2.1 Overview

2.1.1 WTSA-20 was held from 1 to 9 March 2022 in Geneva, Switzerland. WTSA-20 was held as a physical event with interactive remote participation. Decision making was by delegates physically present in Geneva.

2.1.2 Participation in WTSA-20 totalled 1,281 delegates: 870 physically and 411 remotely. In total, 138 Member States attended, as well as 85 other entities. Physical participants were from 125 Member States, 49 Sector Members, six Academia Members, and two United Nations specialized agencies.

2.1.3 WTSA-20 approved the mandates and Questions of the eleven ITU-T study groups and appointed the Chairmen and Vice-Chairmen of TSAG, the ITU-T study groups, and the Standardization Committee for Vocabulary. [Eight new study group Chairmen and more than 120 Vice-Chair](http://wtsa12.wordpress.com/2012/11/29/study-group-leadership-appointed/)men were appointed, coming from 37 countries including 27 developing countries.

2.1.4 WTSA-20 revised 36 Resolutions, adopted two new Resolutions, suppressed four Resolutions, and decided to keep 10 Resolutions unchanged (in total, 20 Resolutions remain the unchanged since Hammamet 2016). WTSA-20 also revised three ITU-T A-Series Recommendations that guide ITU-T’s work; three other ITU-T A-Series Recommendations were left unchanged. The Annex lists the decisions taken upon the WTSA Resolutions and ITU-T Recommendations at WTSA-20.

2.1.5 WTSA-20 instructed ITU-T Study Group 3 to consider the proposed new Question on *OTTs*, and requested ITU-T Study Group 2 to conduct further research on a *draft Resolution on Hexadecimal numbering for MSISDN and IMSI*.

2.1.6 WTSA-20 also acknowledged the importance of Science Monitoring And Reliable Telecommunications (SMART) cables for climate change and seismic monitoring, with the wide support of the Assembly for the roll-out of activities around this concept within the ITU-T Sector, and the need for standardization of the matter, and sought relevant ITU-T study groups to study and take action, and TSAG to coordinate, as appropriate.

2.1.7 WTSA-20 considered the aspects of “non-radio aspects of open networks including standardization of open access networks” and invited members to make proposals on the development and adoption of open networks including open access networks for IMT systems (e.g. open radio access networks) as an important topic to WTDC with the objective of promoting the wide adoption of these new technologies and solutions globally.

2.1.8 WTSA-20 invited TSAG, with the support and contributions from its members, to take necessary measures to review Resolution 11 (Rev. Hammamet, 2016) and its implementation, and to provide a proposal for the way forward for its modification and/or any other suggestion.

2.1.9 WTSA-20 highlighted the importance of the private sector as well as industry in ITU activities through activities, contributions, and engagement of industry. WTSA-20 invited TSAG to consider the issue of industry engagement discussed at WTSA-20, including Resolution 68 (Rev. Hammamet, 2016).

## 2.2 Budget impact

2.2.1 Increased funding will be essential if ITU-T is to implement all the decisions made at WTSA. WTSA Committee 2 on Budget Control estimated that the additional financial impact of WTSA-20 Resolutions not yet included in the draft ITU-T budget for 2022-2023 was a minimum of CHF 1,404 million. The main items in the report of Committee 2 are:

2.2.2 WTSA Resolution 44: the implementation of an exemption from payment of the membership fees for a limited time up to one full study period for new Academia members from developing countries, would have a very limited impact on the revenue side of the Union.

2.2.3 WTSA Resolution 50: the new instructs the Director of the TSB to disseminate information to all stakeholders related to Cybersecurity through the organization of training programmes, forums, workshops, seminars, etc. will have a financial impact. The cost could vary significantly depending of many factors (number of events per year, places of the events, etc.). The cost for organizing one physical event can be estimated between CHF 20k to CHF 50k.

2.2.4 WTSA Resolution 67: as per the modifications introduced under instructs the Director of the TSB more documents would be translated in all the official languages of the Union. This additional workload on translation/typing is estimated to be 1’348 pages per year, corresponding to CHF 1,404 million.

2.2.5 WTSA Resolution 98: the new instructs the Director of the TSB in collaboration with the Directors of BDT and BR to support Member States especially those of developing countries in the organization of forums, seminars and workshops on IoT and SC&C will have a financial impact. The cost could vary significantly depending of many factors (number of events per year, places of the events, etc.). The cost for organizing one physical event on IoT and SC&C can be estimated between CHF 20k to CHF 50k.

## 2.3 New WTSA-20 Resolutions

2.3.1 Resolution 99, *Consideration of organizational reform of the ITU Telecommunication Standardization Sector study*, requests TSAG to implement the TSAG action plan for the analysis of ITU-T study group restructuring, and for TSAG, with the necessary assistance given by the TSB Director, to prepare a proposal with recommendations to the next Assembly in 2024 for a possible reform of ITU-T;

2.3.2 Resolution 100, *A common emergency number for Africa*, instructs the TSB Director in cooperation with the BDT Director to provide technical assistance to Member States in Africa in the implementation of a common emergency number in line with Recommendation ITU-T E.161.1.

## 2.4 Proposed Resolution [IAP-3], *Use of in-person and virtual options on an equal footing in the activities of the ITU Telecommunication Standardization Sector*

WTSA-20 considered (but did not adopt) a proposed new Resolution [IAP-3], *Use of in-person and virtual options on an equal footing in the activities of the ITU Telecommunication Standardization Sector*. The Assembly was conscious about ongoing and related work in the TSAG Ad Hoc Group on the governance and management of e-meetings (TSAG AHG-GME), but also about possible implications on other matters such as of financial, operational and legal nature pertaining in scope of Council and of the Plenipotentiary Conference with respect to the possibility of any changes to the General Rules that may be necessary as a result of this particular proposal.

WTSA-20 asked the Director of TSB to bring this proposal to the attention of the TSAG Ad Hoc Group on the governance and management of e-meetings, to the Council, and to the Plenipotentiary Conference.

WTSA-20 invited the Plenipotentiary Conference to consider the text of proposed new Resolution [IAP-3] and take any necessary actions on this matter.

# 3. WISE Event

3.1 The second Women in Standardization Expert Group (WISE) event was held on 8 March 2022, at the World Telecommunication Standardization Assembly (WTSA) in Geneva.

3.2 The event consisted of a signing ceremony of an MoU between Australia and ITU, a partnership for bridging the gender digital divide as well as advancing women’s empowerment and decision making at ITU Plenipotentiary Conference, followed by a ceremony to recognize entities who have made remarkable contribution to ITU-T standard’s work in terms of leadership, continuity and impact, and concluded with a panel discussion on “Why gender matters in setting standards. The discussions also tackled how frontier technologies such as AI and machine learning could be used to understand gender bias and fairness.

3.3 WTSA Resolution 55: WTSA-20 also reaffirmed WTSA Resolution 55 on promoting a gender equality in ITU Telecommunication Standardization Sector activities, committing ITU-T to continue taking actions to promote gender equality and accelerate the number of women in decision making positions in ITU-T and TSB.

**Annex – List of WTSA Resolutions & Opinion and approved ITU-T Recommendations**

| Resolutions | Status |
| --- | --- |
| Resolution 1, *Rules of procedure of the ITU Telecommunication Standardization Sector* | Revised |
| Resolution 2, *ITU Telecommunication Standardization Sector study group responsibility and mandates* | Revised |
| Resolution 7, *Collaboration with the International Organization for Standardization and the International Electrotechnical Commission* | Revised |
| Resolution 11, *Collaboration with the Postal Operations Council of the Universal Postal Union in the study of services concerning both the postal and the telecommunication sectors* | Unchanged |
| Resolution 18, *Principles and procedures for the allocation of work to, and strengthening coordination and cooperation among, the ITU Radiocommunication, ITU Telecommunication Standardization and ITU Telecommunication Development Sectors* | Revised |
| Resolution 20, *Procedures for allocation and management of international telecommunication numbering, naming, addressing and identification resources* | Revised |
| Resolution 22, *Authorization for the Telecommunication Standardization Advisory Group to act between world telecommunication standardization assemblies* | Revised |
| Resolution 29, *Alternative calling procedures on international telecommunication networks* | Revised |
| Resolution 31, *Admission of entities or organizations to participate as Associates in the work of the ITU Telecommunication Standardization Sector* | Unchanged |
| Resolution 32, *Strengthening electronic working methods for the work of the ITU Telecommunication Standardization Sector* | Unchanged |
| Resolution 34, *Voluntary contributions* | Revised |
| Resolution 35, *Appointment and maximum term of office for chairmen and vice-chairmen of study groups of the Telecommunication Standardization Sector and of the Telecommunication Standardization Advisory Group* | Suppressed |
| Resolution 40, *Regulatory and policy aspects of the work of the ITU Telecommunication Standardization Sector* | Revised |
| Resolution 43, *Regional preparations for world telecommunication standardization assemblies* | Revised |
| Resolution 44, *Bridging the standardization gap between developing and developed countries* | Revised |
| Resolution 45, *Effective coordination of standardization work across study groups in the ITU Telecommunication Standardization Sector and the role of the ITU Telecommunication Standardization Advisory Group* | Suppressed |
| Resolution 47, *Country code top-level domain names* | Unchanged |
| Resolution 48, *Internationalized (multilingual) domain names* | Revised |
| Resolution 49, *ENUM* | Unchanged |
| Resolution 50, *Cybersecurity* | Revised |
| Resolution 52, *Countering and combating spam* | Unchanged |
| Resolution 54, *Regional groups of study groups of the ITU Telecommunication Standardization Sector* | Revised |
| Resolution 55, *Promoting gender equality in ITU Telecommunication Standardization Sector activities* | Revised |
| Resolution 58, *Encouraging the creation of national computer incident response teams, particularly for developing countries* | Revised |
| Resolution 59, *Enhancing participation of telecommunication operators from developing countries* | Suppressed |
| Resolution 60, *Responding to the challenges of the evolution of the identification/numbering system and its convergence with IP-based systems/networks* | Revised |
| Resolution 61, *Countering and combating misappropriation and misuse of international telecommunication numbering resources* | Revised |
| Resolution 62, *Dispute settlement* | Unchanged |
| Resolution 64, *Internet protocol address allocation and facilitating the transition to and deployment of IPv6* | Revised |
| Resolution 65, *Calling party number delivery, calling line identification and origin identification information* | Revised |
| Resolution 66, *Technology Watch in the Telecommunication Standardization Bureau* | Suppressed |
| Resolution 67, *Use in the ITU Telecommunication Standardization Sector of the languages of the Union on an equal footing, and the Standardization Committee for Vocabulary* | Revised |
| Resolution 68, *Evolving role of industry in the ITU Telecommunication Standardization Sector* | Unchanged |
| Resolution 69, *Non-discriminatory access and use of Internet resources* | Unchanged |
| Resolution 70, *Telecommunication/information and communication technology accessibility for persons with disabilities and persons with specific needs* | Revised |
| Resolution 72, *Measurement and assessment concerns related to human exposure to electromagnetic fields* | Revised |
| Resolution 73, *Information and communication technologies, environment, climate change and circular economy* | Revised |
| Resolution 74, *Enhancing participation of Sector Members from developing countries in the work of the ITU Telecommunication Standardization Sector* | Revised |
| Resolution 75, *The ITU Telecommunication Standardization Sector's contribution in implementing the outcomes of the World Summit on the Information Society, taking into account the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development* | Revised |
| Resolution 76, *Studies related to conformance and interoperability testing, assistance to developing countries1, and a possible future ITU Mark programme* | Revised |
| Resolution 77, *Enhancing the standardization work in the ITU Telecommunication Standardization Sector for software-defined networking* | Unchanged |
| Resolution 78, *Information and communication technology applications and standards for improved access to e-health services* | Revised |
| Resolution 79, *The role of telecommunications/information and communication technologies in handling and controlling e-waste from telecommunication and information technology equipment and methods of treating it* | Revised |
| Resolution 80, *Acknowledging the active involvement of the membership in the development of ITU Telecommunication Standardization Sector deliverables* | Unchanged |
| Resolution 83, *Evaluation of the implementation of resolutions of the World Telecommunication Standardization Assembly* | Unchanged |
| Resolution 84, *Studies concerning the protection of users of telecommunication/information and communication technology services* | Revised |
| Resolution 85, *Strengthening and diversifying the resources of the ITU Telecommunication Standardization Sector* | Unchanged |
| Resolution 86, *Facilitating the implementation of the Smart Africa Manifesto* | Unchanged |
| Resolution 87, *Participation of the ITU Telecommunication Standardization Sector in the periodic review and revision of the International Telecommunication Regulations* | Unchanged |
| Resolution 88, *International mobile roaming* | Unchanged |
| Resolution 89, *Promoting the use of information and communication technologies to bridge the financial inclusion gap* | Revised |
| Resolution 90, *Open source in the ITU Telecommunication Standardization Sector* | Unchanged |
| Resolution 91, *Enhancing access to an electronic repository of information on numbering plans published by the ITU Telecommunication Standardization Sector* | Revised |
| Resolution 92, *Enhancing the standardization activities in the ITU Telecommunication Standardization Sector related to non-radio aspects of international mobile telecommunications* | Revised |
| Resolution 93, *Interconnection of 4G, IMT-2020 networks and beyond* | Unchanged |
| Resolution 94, *Standardization work in the ITU Telecommunication Standardization Sector for cloud-based event data technology* | Unchanged |
| Resolution 95, *ITU Telecommunication Standardization Sector initiatives to raise awareness on best practices and policies related to service quality* | Revised |
| Resolution 96, *ITU Telecommunication Standardization Sector studies for combating counterfeit telecommunication/information and communication technology devices* | Unchanged |
| Resolution 97, *Combating mobile telecommunication device theft* | Revised |
| Resolution 98, *Enhancing the standardization of Internet of things and smart cities and communities for global development* | Revised |
| Resolution 99, *Consideration of organizational reform of the ITU Telecommunication Standardization Sector study groups* | New |
| Resolution 100, *A common emergency number for Africa* | New |

| Opinion | Status |
| --- | --- |
| Opinion 1, *Practical application of network externality premium* | Unchanged |

| ITU-T Recommendations | Status |
| --- | --- |
| Recommendation A.1, *Working methods for study groups of the ITU Telecommunication Standardization Sector* | Unchanged |
| Recommendation A.2, *Presentation of contributions to the ITU Telecommunication Standardization Sector* | Unchanged |
| Recommendation A.5, *Generic procedures for including references to documents of other organizations in ITU-T Recommendations* | Revised |
| Recommendation A.7, *Focus groups: Establishment and working procedures* | Unchanged |
| Recommendation A.8, *Alternative approval process for new and revised ITU-T Recommendations* | Revised |
| Recommendation A.25, *Generic procedures for incorporating text between ITU-T and other organizations* | Revised |

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