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| **Agenda item: PL 3** | **Document C24/24-E** |
| **6 May 2024** |
| **Original: English** |
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| Report by the Secretary-General |
| PREPARATIONS FOR THE 2024 WORLD TELECOMMUNICATION STANDARDIZATION ASSEMBLY (WTSA-24) |
| **Purpose**The document reports about the status of preparations for the World Telecommunication Standardization Assembly (WTSA-24) and the Global Standards Symposium (GSS-24).**Action required by the Council**The Council is invited **to note** the report.**Relevant link(s) with the Strategic Plan**Convening platform; membership driven.**Financial implications**Within the allocated budget 2024-2025.\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**References**<https://www.itu.int/wtsa/2024/>  |

1. **Venue and date**

1.1 The ITU Secretary-General received in March 2023 an invitation from the Government of India for the hosting of WTSA-24 in India with the proposed dates of 15 to 24 October 2024, at Pragati Maidan, New Delhi, India (see [C23/24](https://www.itu.int/md/S23-CL-C-0024/en) [Annex 1](#Annex1)).

1.2 Following Council [Decision 629](https://www.itu.int/md/S23-CL-C-0123/en) adopted at the 2023 Session of the Council, the Secretary-General carried out a consultation with all Member States on the precise place and exact dates of WTSA-24.

1.3 Following the successful consultation among ITU Member States carried out by Circular Letter [CL-23/28](https://www.itu.int/md/S23-SG-CIR-0028/en) of 5 September 2023; [CL-23/37](https://www.itu.int/md/S23-SG-CIR-0037/en) of 16 October 2023 announced the agreement of the required majority of the Member States of ITU (113 positive replies, 1 negative reply, 5 abstention), in accordance with No. 42 of the ITU Convention.

1.4 As a result, the next **WTSA** is planned in **New Delhi India** from **15 to 24 October 2024**, preceded by the Global Standards Symposium **(GSS) on 14 October 2024**.

1.5 TSB in coordination with the ITU Conferences and Publications Department carried out an on-site visit in October 2023 to the International Exhibition cum Convention Centre, New Delhi, India, for the further logistical planning of the assembly.

1. **Invitation letters**

2.1 Invitation letters for WTSA-24 and GSS-24 have been sent to:

* [Administrations of the Member States of the Union](https://www.itu.int/md/S23-SG-CIR-0042/en)
* [ITU-T Sector Members](https://www.itu.int/md/S23-DM-CIR-01014/en)
* [ITU Academia](https://www.itu.int/md/S23-DM-CIR-01013/en)
* [UN and its Specialized Agencies, IAEA, Regional telecommunication organizations, Intergovernmental organizations operating satellite systems, Other regional or international organizations](https://www.itu.int/md/S23-DM-CIR-01015/en)
* State of Palestine

2.2 Summary of WTSA-24 related Circulars released to date:

* TSB [CL 176](https://www.itu.int/md/T22-TSB-CIR-0176/en) (+ Cor.1) 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 2025 – 2028
* TSB [CL 177](https://www.itu.int/md/T22-TSB-CIR-0177/en) World Telecommunication Standardization Assembly (WTSA-24)
* TSB [CL 178](https://www.itu.int/md/T22-TSB-CIR-0178/en) Global Standards Symposium (GSS-24)
* TSB [CL 182](https://www.itu.int/md/T22-TSB-CIR-0182/en) Network of Women for WTSA-24 (17 October 2024)
* TSB [CL 204](https://www.itu.int/md/T22-TSB-CIR-0204/en) IRM Second Interregional meeting for preparation of WTSA-24 (25 July 2024).
* ITU [CL-24/6](https://www.itu.int/md/S24-SG-CIR-0006/en) – ITU Kaleidoscope 2024 (21-23 October 2024)
1. **Candidates for chair of ITU-T study groups, TSAG, and SCV**

3.1 [TSB Circular 176](https://www.itu.int/md/T22-TSB-CIR-0176/en) (12 February 2024) 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 2025-2028. 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-24 website](https://www.itu.int/wtsa/2024/candidates/). The TSB Director would very much appreciate receiving nominations by **14 July 2024** but not later than 16 September 2024.

**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-24 website](https://www.itu.int/wtsa/2024/prepmeet/).

4.2 [The first Interregional meeting (IRM)](https://www.itu.int/wtsa/2024/irm/) was held on 18 January 2024 as a virtual meeting, back-to-back with the 3rd TSAG meeting.

4.3 [The second IRM](https://www.itu.int/en/ITU-T/wtsa20/irc/Pages/default.aspx) will be held virtually on 25 July 2024, back-to-back with the 4th meeting of TSAG.

4.4 A third IRM is planned virtually on 9 September 2024.

4.5 Information about the Inter-regional coordination can be found on its [webpage](https://www.itu.int/wtsa/2024/irm/).

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

5.1 All [ITU-T study groups](https://www.itu.int/en/ITU-T/studygroups) have begun their preparations for WTSA-24.

5.2 TSAG has established and is operating two rapporteur groups that are specifically tasked with preparations for WTSA-24: the Rapporteur Group on ITU-T work programme and study group restructuring (RG-WPR); and the Rapporteur Group on WTSA preparations and review of resolutions (RG-WTSA).

5.3 TSAG has planned one more meeting from 29 July to 2 August 2024 in Geneva and a series of [rapporteur group meetings](https://www.itu.int/net/ITU-T/lists/rgm.aspx?Group=0) to advance preparations for WTSA-24.

**6. Deadline for submitting proposals to WTSA-24**

Delegations are invited to submit contributions to WTSA-24 four weeks before the opening of WTSA-24 (Monday, 16 September 2024), noting that, as decided in Plenipotentiary Conference Resolution 165 (Dubai, 2018), there is a firm submission deadline of 21 calendar days prior to the opening of WTSA-24 (Monday, 23 September 2024 at 2359 hours Geneva time).[[1]](#footnote-2)

**7. Fellowships**

Fellowships per eligible Member State for WTSA-24 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 agreement has been signed by India and the ITU SG.

8.2 The secretariat continues to have regular discussions with India on:

8.2.1 Implementation of the provisions outlined in the host country agreement.

8.2.2 Logistics arrangements for the several WTSA-24 side events planned:

* 48 hours Hackathon on 1-2 October 2024 followed by a prize ceremony during WTSA-24
* GSS-24, 14 October 2024
* GSS-24 High-Level Segment, 14 October 2024
* World Standards Day, 14 October 2024
* ITU Expo, 14-24 October 2024
* Digital Wave Stage at Expo, 14-24 October 2024
* Robotics for Youth competition at the India Mobile Congress (IMC), 17 October 2024
* WHO-ITU Safe Listening Standards Workshop at IMC, 17 October 2024
* Network of Women (NoW in ITU-T), 17 October 2024
* AI for Good Impact India at IMC, 18 October 2024
* Kaleidoscope, 21-23 October 2024
* UN Day, 24 October 2024
* ITU-T Study Groups leadership training, 25 October 2024

8.3 India is planning to host the India Mobile Congress (IMC) from 15 to 19 October in Pragati Maidan (Hall 2-5) in parallel with WTSA-24. The Inauguration ceremony of WTSA-24 and IMC are planned to be held jointly in the morning of 15 October 2024.

8.4 Possible risks:

8.4.1 The host country will rely on an event management company to handle logistics and event operations to implement several aspects of the Host Country Agreement. At the time of publication of this Council Document, the selection of the event management company by the host country is still ongoing and expected to be finalized by May 2024.

8.4.2 Due to advanced security procedures and protocols for high-level government officials attendance at WTSA-24 inauguration on 15 October 2024, the access to the main convention centre from the evening of 14 October 2024 to the morning of 15 October 2024 may have some restrictions.

**9. WTSA website**

The WTSA-24 website <https://www.itu.int/wtsa/2024/> contains all of the above information.

**10. Host country website**

The host country website [www.delhiwtsa24.in/ituwtsa](http://www.delhiwtsa24.in/ituwtsa) contains key information on hotel accommodations and other useful logistics arrangements for delegates to plan their stay.

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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-2)