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| PLENARY MEETING | Addendum 30 toDocument 42-E |
|  | 10 October 2016 |
|  | Original: English |
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| African Telecommunication Union Administrations |
| Proposed modification of Resolution 68 - Implementation of Resolution 122 (Rev. Guadalajara, 2010) of the Plenipotentiary Conference on the evolving role of the World Telecommunication Standardization Assembly |
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| **Abstract:** | African Member States propose the continuation of the CTO meetings, and proposes some changes to Resolution 68 in order to encourage ITU-T study groups to consider the outcomes of these meetings in their work, and that the TSAG Rapporteur Group on Standardization Strategy (RG-SS) bear in mind these outcomes while defining the strategic standardization issues to be handled by the ITU-T. |

# 1 Introduction

African Member States are aware of the CTO (Chief Technology Officers) meetings and the resulting ITU-T Communiqués which address the standardization landscape, and the standards priorities, as well as express the needs of the Industry. It should be noted that Developing Countries and their Industry seldom participate in such meetings for various obvious reasons.

It has been noted that the Industry has significant participation in the ITU-T study groups in particular those that mainly deal with technical matters, and their contribution to the work of these study groups is recognizable.

African Member States are of the view that the CTO meetings should continue, and that ITU-T study groups should be informed of the outcomes of these meetings, and be invited to consider these outcomes in their work as appropriate.

Additionally the outcomes of the CTO meeting should be addressed, together with the outcomes of other ITU forums that express the needs and concerns of Developing Countries, by the TSAG Rapporteur Group on Standardization Strategy (RG-SS) in its activities.

African Member States also express their concern that hegemony of the industry on the ITU-T strategies and activities is not desirable; participation of high-level industry executives from developing countries in the CTO meetings, and addressing their concerns and needs by the TSAG RG-SS can mitigate such concerns.

# 2 Proposal

This African Member States Common Proposal encourages the consideration of the outcomes of the CTO meetings in the work of ITU-T study groups, and that the TSAG Rapporteur Group on Standardization Strategy (RG-SS) bear in mind these outcomes while conducting its activities. Additionally, high-level, private-sector executives from all regions, and in particular from the developing countries, are invited to participate in these CTO meetings and other relevant ITU forums.

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RESOLUTION 68 (REV. HAMMAMET, 2016)

Implementation of Resolution 122 (Rev. Guadalajara, 2010) of the Plenipotentiary Conference on the evolving role of the World Telecommunication Standardization Assembly

(Johannesburg, 2008; Dubai, 2012; Hammamet, 2016)

The World Telecommunication Standardization Assembly (Hammamet, 2016),

recognizing

*a)* that Resolution 122 (Rev. Guadalajara, 2010) of the Plenipotentiary Conference, on the evolving role of the World Telecommunication Standardization Assembly (WTSA), called also for the organization of the Global Standardization Symposium (GSS);

*b)* the objective of Resolution 123 (Rev. Guadalajara, 2010) of the Plenipotentiary Conference, on bridging the standardization gap between developed and developing countries[[1]](#footnote-1)1;

*c)* that the ITU Telecommunication Standardization Sector (ITU‑T) is the unique international standardization organization comprising Member States, Sector Members, Associates and academia;

*d)* the important conclusions of GSS (Dubai, 2012), covering the two above-mentioned resolutions, in particular:

– to facilitate an exchange of views with high-level industry representatives on the standardization scenario and consider in ITU's work the evolution of the industry and user needs; and

– to carry out this work without affecting either the unique status of ITU as an intergovernmental United Nations agency that also incorporates other entities representing the private sector, the industry and the users, among others, or the traditional contribution-driven working procedures of ITU‑T,

*e)* that since 2009 the Director of the Telecommunication Standardization Bureau has organized six meetings of high-level industry executives to discuss the standardization landscape, and to identify standards priorities;

*f)* that conclusions of chief technology officer (CTO) meetings have been reflected in official ITU-T Communiqués,

considering

*a)* that developing countries participate almost only in the standardization activities of ITU‑T and may not be able to participate in the increasingly fragmented global and/or regional standards development organizations (SDOs), as well as industry forums and consortia, and may not be able to participate in the yearly meeting of SDOs;

*b)* that ITU‑T should continue to strengthen its role and evolve, as required by Resolution 122 (Rev. Guadalajara, 2010), and should repeat the gathering of high-level, private-sector executives, along the lines of GSS, but limited to the private sector, with the objective of strengthening the role of ITU‑T by taking appropriate measures to respond to the needs of such high-level executives in terms of their identified requirements and priorities for standardization activities within ITU‑T, also taking into consideration the needs and concerns of developing countries;

*c)* that ITU-T should also encourage cooperation with other relevant SDOs in order to avoid conflict of their standards with the ITU-T standards,

noting

*a)* the excellent results of the Global Industry Leaders Forums (GILF), which are frequently organized by the Director of the Telecommunication Development Bureau for high-level executives of the private sector, focusing on key challenges in achieving information and communication technology (ICT) development in developing countries and proposing approaches for addressing those challenges for developing countries;

*b)* that, in order to encourage industry participation in ITU‑T and to discourage the proliferation of forums and consortia, standard-making in ITU-T should respond appropriately to the needs of the ICT industry, while taking into consideration users’ needs and administrations’ concerns in a coordinated way;

*c)* that an essential part of the work in the development of some technical standards (ITU-T Recommendations) is done by representatives of industry;

*d)* that Recommendations proposed in response to those coordinated needs will increase ITU's credibility and will respond to the needs of countries by deploying optimized technical solutions and reducing the proliferation of those solutions, which will also have economic advantages for developing countries;

*e)* that TSAG has recognized the need for a strategy function in ITU-T, where the input of all concerned parties, including the industry and the developing countries into the strategy is highly desired,

resolves to instruct the Director of the Telecommunication Standardization Bureau

1 to continue to organize meetings for high-level industry executives, e.g. chief technology officer (CTO) meetings, in order to assist in identifying and coordinating standardization priorities and subjects, and to minimize the number of forums and consortia;

2 to bring the needs of developing countries to those meetings by consulting them prior to the meetings using questionnaires and encourage participation of local high-level industry executives;

3 to encourage participation in the CTO meetings of a wide representation of industry, from the ITU-T Sector Membership from all Regions;

4 to develop effective mechanisms to attract an increased number of high-level technology executives to participate in those meetings, with a view to enhancing cooperation, collaboration and coordination with their organizations, and encouraging those organizations to join ITU‑T as a Sector Member, or as Sector Members, as appropriate;

5 to disseminate the outcomes of the CTO meetings to the ITU-T study groups and to the TSAG Rapporteur Group on Standardization Strategy, and to invite them to report to the TSAG on the consideration of the CTO proposals in their activities;

6 to produce a report to the next WTSA assessing the outcomes of the CTO meetings over the period, and examining the need to continue such activities,

instruct the Director of the Telecommunication Standardization Bureau to coordinate with the Director of the Telecommunication Development Bureau

to follow-up on the continuation of the Global Industry Leaders Forums (GILF), and to provide its outcome to the TSAG Rapporteur Group on Standardization Strategy (RG-SS) for consideration in its activities.

invite Sector Members from developing countries

to participate with their high-level executives in the CTO meetings, and to raise proposals of their priority standardization areas as well as standardization concerns and needs of developing countries.

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1. 1 These include the least developed countries, small island developing states, landlocked developing countries and countries with economies in transition. [↑](#footnote-ref-1)