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| PLENARY MEETING | | Addendum 1 to Document 44-E | |
|  | | 3 October 2016 | |
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| Asia-Pacific Telecommunity Member Administrations | | | |
| Proposals to not change Recommendation ITU-T A.1 - Working methods for study groups of the ITU Telecommunication Standardization Sector | | | |
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| **Abstract:** | In this document the Asia-Pacific Telecommunity Administrations propose to not change Recommendation ITU-T A.1. |

Introduction

At the last TSAG meeting held in July 2016, Recommendation ITU-T A.1, ‘Working methods for study groups of the ITU Telecommunication Standardization Sector’ was extensively discussed for a possible revision. Among several suggestions to revise ITU-T A.1, APT would like to draw your attention on a new work item requirement suggested by France and UK ([TSAG C‑86](http://www.itu.int/md/T13-TSAG-C-0086/en)). The background of the proposal related to the new work item requirement was based on a need for high-quality, demand-driven international standards.

Here are some observations on the suggestion referenced above.

1) The suggested mandatory requirement for a new work item is “at least four entities from four different countries”. However, the “number” does not guarantee the quality of Recommendations. If the main concern is “quality”, we already have well-established processes for the final approval of Recommendations. There was also an alternative suggestion during the discussion at the last TSAG meeting, pointing out that “more than one country” will indicate the effort for developing international standards. However, the suggested number, “more than one” or “four”, cannot be a norm for guaranteeing the quality of international standards.

2) Some members mentioned the requirement for an NP in ISO/IEC JTC 1. However, the two organizations have different standard approval processes. ISO/IEC JTC 1 is based on the balloting system whereas ITU-T is based on consensus. The simple comparison of the two organizations cannot be applied in identifying the new work item requirement due to the fundamental differences in approval process.

3) The new work item template, Annex A of ITU-T A.1, was developed during the last study period in TSAG, and its original background of the proposal for the new work item template was for “*smooth discussions during working party plenaries and/or closing plenaries as well as to help Rapporteurs fulfilling their responsibility to ensure the quality and completeness of the work programme of each study group*”.

However, by adding the mandatory requirement for a new work item, the template will become another form of regulatory burden that can discourage members to actively participate in the development of Recommendations. In addition, the template may not be applicable to study groups that are developing standards with other SDOs (see [TSAG C58(2009-2012), France](http://www.itu.int/md/T09-TSAG-C-0058)).

There was an ad-hoc meeting to revise ITU-T A.1 with the same issue, but no agreement was made (see [TSAG TD-354(2009-2012)](http://www.itu.int/md/T09-TSAG-120110-TD-GEN-0354/en)).

4) There are several WTSA resolutions to encourage the participation of developing countries such as Resolutions 44, 59, 74, etc. To align with these resolutions to increase participation of developing countries, more efforts are necessary to promote their participation. Increasing mandatory requirements in the development of Recommendations could have negative implication on their participation.

Proposal

APT Member Administrations have been actively participating in ITU-T standardization. However, the addition of the mandatory requirement, i.e., “at least four entities (Member States, Sector Members, Associates, Academia) from four different countries for a new work item” to the clause 1.4.7 of A.1, may discourage members to participate due to the reasons stated above in Section 1.

Therefore, APT Member Administrations would like to propose to retain the clause 1.4.7 of ITU-T A.1 as it is without adding the mandatory requirement. We also would like to ask TSB to provide a clear and reasonable guideline about the rules of procedures regarding the creation of a new work item which will be applicable to all study groups.

NOC APT/44A1/1

Recommendation ITU-T A.1

Working methods for study groups of the ITU Telecommunication  
Standardization Sector

(1996; 2000; 2004; 2006; 2008; 2012)

**Reasons:** See Introduction and Proposal of WTSA-16 Document 44 Addendum 1.