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| ITU Member States, Members of the RCC |
| DRAFT REVISION OF Resolution 67 - USE IN ITU-T OF THE LANGUAGES OF THE UNION ON AN EQUAL FOOTING |

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| **Abstract:** | This contribution proposes further strengthening the use of languages in ITU-T on an equal footing through measures such as extending the practice of translating Recommendations approved under the AAP, improving coordination and establishing a joint ITU-T/ITU-R vocabulary unit. To that end appropriate modifications to Recommendation 67 are also proposed.  |

Introduction

The Plenipotentiary Conference in 2010 reiterated the importance of maintaining and strengthening the principle of multilingualism and use of the six official languages of the Union on an equal footing in the work of ITU. In Resolution 154 (Rev. Busan, 2014), the ITU Council was instructed, among other things:

*… [to pursue] appropriate means and measures for expediting the timely and simultaneous delivery of ITU documentation and publications in the six languages;*

*… to pursue and monitor appropriate operational measures, such as:*

*– to continue review of ITU documentation and publication services with a view to eliminating any duplication and to creating synergies;*

*– to facilitate the timely and simultaneous delivery of high-quality and efficient language services (interpretation, documentation, publications and public-information materials) in the six languages, in support of the Union's strategic goals;*

*– to continue implementation of judicious and efficient use of information and communication technologies (ICT) in language and publications activities, taking into consideration experience gained by other international organizations and best practices;*

*– to continue to explore and implement all possible measures to reduce the size and volume of documents (page-limits, executive summaries, material in annexes or hyperlinks), and achieve greener meetings, when justified, without affecting the quality and content of the documents to be translated or to be published, and bearing clearly in mind the need to comply with the United Nations system objective of multilingualism;*

*– as a matter of priority, to take, to the extent practicable, all necessary measures for equitable use of the six languages on the ITU website in terms of multilingual content and user-friendliness;*

*… to monitor the work carried out by the ITU secretariat in regard to: …*

*– merging all existing databases for definitions and terminology into a centralized system, with proper measures for its maintenance, expansion and updating;*

The Chairman of the ITU-T Standardization Committee for Vocabulary (SCV), the ITU-R Coordination Committee for Vocabulary (CCV), and the Council Working Group on Languages (CWG-LANG) Mr I. Hoballah has done much work on coordinating the activities of the SCV, CCV and CWG-LANG, including joint meetings of the SCV and CCV. This shows the feasibility of having within ITU a single working body dealing with issues pertaining to vocabulary and use of all the Union’s six languages on an equal footing.

In Resolution 154 (Rev. Guadalajara, 2010) the Council was instructed to review, in collaboration with the Sector advisory groups, the types of material to be included in output documents and translated.

Since WTSA-12, TSB has done much work on written translation on an individual basis of important Recommendations approved under the alternative approval procedure (AAP), processing up to 1000 pages per biennium. Outside organizations were involved in this work, by agreement with the relevant regional organizations, in order to reduce expenditure to a minimum. Work is needed to assess the quality of the translations and that must be continued on the next batch of Recommendations to be translated. If it is found that costs are significantly reduced through outsourcing, we should consider the possibility of doubling the number of pages translated in the case of Recommendations approved under the AAP.

Proposal

 RCC/47A5/1

The Telecommunication Standardization Bureau should continue the practice of translating ITU-T Recommendations approved under the AAP and monitor the quality of translations and the expense involved. It should request TSB to consider the possibility of doubling the number of pages of such Recommendations translated.

 RCC/47A5/2

To continue the work of SCV in close coordination with the ITU-R CCV and the Council WG on Languages. Continue the practice of holding joint SCV/CCV meetings, where necessary submitting information and questions of a general nature for consideration by CWG-LANG.

 RCC/47A5/3

To consider the feasibility of establishing within ITU a single working body to deal with issues of vocabulary and use of all six languages of the Union on an equal footing, appointing experts at the WTSA and RA to work in that body with the status of vice-chairmen.

 RCC/47A5/4

To ensure that information is posted on the ITU-T website in all six official languages of the Union on an equal footing.

MOD RCC/47A5/5

RESOLUTION 67 (REV. HAMMAMET, 2016)

Use in the ITU Telecommunication Standardization Sector of the
 languages of the Union on an equal footing

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

The World Telecommunication Standardization Assembly (Hammamet, 2016),

recognizing

*a)* the adoption by the Plenipotentiary Conference of Resolution 154 (Rev.Busan, 2014), on the use of the six official languages of the Union on an equal footing, which instructs the ITU Council and the General Secretariat on how to achieve equal treatment of the six languages;

*b)* the decisions of the Council centralizing the editing functions for languages in the General Secretariat (Conferences and Publications Department), calling upon the Sectors to provide the final texts in English only (this applies also to terms and definitions),

considering

*a)* that under Resolution 154 (Rev.Busan, 2014) of the Plenipotentiary Conference, the Council is instructed to continue the work of the Council Working Group on Languages, in order to monitor progress and report to the Council on the implementation of that resolution;

*b)* the importance of providing information in all the official languages of the Union on an equal footing on webpages of the ITU Telecommunication Standardization Sector (ITU-T),

noting

that in accordance of Resolution 67 (Johannesburg, 2008) of the World Telecommunication Standardization Assembly (WTSA), on the initiation of the Standardization Committee for Vocabulary (SCV), SCV was established,

resolves

1 that the ITU‑T study groups, within their terms of reference, should continue their work on technical and operational terms and their definitions in English only;

2 that the work on standardization vocabulary within ITU‑T shall be based on the proposals made by the study groups in the English language, with the consideration and adoption of the translation into the other five official languages as proposed by the General Secretariat, and that this shall be ensured by SCV;

3 that, when proposing terms and definitions, the ITU‑T study groups shall use the guidelines given in Annex B to the "Author's guide for drafting ITU-T Recommendations";

4 that, where more than one ITU‑T study group is defining the same terms and/or concept, efforts should be made to select a single term and a single definition which is acceptable to all of the ITU‑T study groups concerned;

5 that, when selecting terms and preparing definitions, the ITU‑T study groups shall take into account the established use of terms and existing definitions in ITU, in particular those appearing in the online ITU Terms and Definitions database;

6 that the Telecommunication Standardization Bureau (TSB) should collect all new terms and definitions, which are proposed by the ITU‑T study groups in consultation with SCV, and enter them in the online ITU Terms and Definitions database;

7 that SCV should work in close collaboration with the Coordination Committee on Vocabulary (CCV) of the ITU Radiocommunication Sector, holding joint meetings where possible, preferably on-line;

8 that SCV in its work should be guided by the provisions of Recommendation 154 of PP‑14 and collaborate in this regard with the Council WG on Languages,

instructs the Director of the Telecommunication Standardization Bureau

1 to continue to translate all Recommendations approved under the traditional approval process (TAP) in all the languages of the Union;

2 to translate all Telecommunication Standardization Advisory Group (TSAG) reports in all the languages of the Union;

3 to include in the circular that announces the approval of a Recommendation an indication of whether it will be translated,

invites the Council

1 to take appropriate measures to ensure that information on the ITU websites is made available in all the official languages of the Union on an equal footing within budgetary limits;

2 to consider the feasibility of establishing a single working body within ITU to deal with issues of vocabulary and use of all six languages of the Union on an equal footing, appointing experts at the WTSA and Radiocommunication Assembly to work in that body with the status of vice-chairmen,

instructs the Telecommunication Standardization Advisory Group

to consider the best mechanism for deciding which Recommendations approved under the alternative approval process (AAP) shall be translated, in light of the relevant Council decisions.

Annex
(to Resolution 67)

Terms of reference for the Standardization Committee for Vocabulary

**1** To provide consultation on terms and definitions for vocabulary work for ITU‑T in the six languages, in close collaboration with the General Secretariat (Conferences and Publications Department), the TSB editor for the English language as well as the relevant study group rapporteurs for vocabulary, and to seek harmonization among all concerned ITU‑T study groups regarding terms and definitions.

**2** To liaise with CCV and other organizations dealing with vocabulary work in the telecommunication field, for example with the International Organization for Standardization (ISO) and the International Electrotechnical Commission (IEC) as well as the ISO/IEC Joint Technical Committee for Information Technology (JTC 1), in order to eliminate duplication of terms and definitions.

**3** To inform TSAG at least once per year of its activities and to report its results to the next WTSA.

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