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| PLENARY MEETING | | Addendum 8 to Document 47-E | |
|  | | 27 September 2016 | |
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| ITU Member States, Members of the RCC | | | |
| draft revision of resolution 54 - Creation of, and assistance to, regional groups | | | |
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| **Abstract:** | This contribution proposes modifying Resolution 54 in order to expand the potential and flexibility of the ITU-T SG regional groups, including by the formation, at the request of a regional organization, of a joint regional group on issues pertaining to questions under study by a number of ITU-T study groups. |

Introduction

At the present time, establishing individual regional groups in every ITU-T study group of interest for developing regions is very difficult owing to a number of factors, including the following:

– the limited financial resources for holding regional group meetings for each ITU-T study group of interest;

– in developing countries, generally only a small number of standardization experts are responsible for many areas of standardization, including those concerning questions under study by a number of ITU-T study groups;

– the increasingly interrelated nature of questions under study in current areas of research (such as telecommunication services and economic aspects of service provision, quality, the Internet of things, and so on) in various ITU-T study groups does not allow a comprehensive approach to the study of standardization issues of interest without expanding the number of regional groups, and so on.

It would therefore seems essential to improve the structure and activities of the regional groups not by changing their status but by enabling the regions to have one regional group for each region accredited in the relevant ITU-T study groups of interest. If that is done, a high level of synergy can be achieved as a result of simultaneous examination of interrelated issues by different ITU-T study groups, within one regional group meeting and involving a broad range of relevant experts, which in turn may have a positive economic effect and raise the level of discussion and the quality of contributions.

Proposals

It is proposed that modifications and additions be made to sections of Resolution 54, as indicated in the text that follows.

MOD RCC/47A8/1

RESOLUTION 54 (REV. HAMMAMET, 2016)

Creation of, and assistance to, regional groups

(Florianópolis, 2004; Johannesburg, 2008; Dubai, 2012; Hammamet, 2016)

The World Telecommunication Standardization Assembly (Hammamet, 2016),

considering

*a)* that Resolution 123 (Rev. Busan, 2014) of the Plenipotentiary Conference instructs the Secretary-General and the Directors of the three Bureaux to work closely with each other in pursuing initiatives that assist in bridging the standardization gap between developing[[1]](#footnote-1)1 and developed countries, and to further collaborate with relevant regional organizations in order to assist them in their activities in this area;

*b)* that the work of study groups, particularly in relation to, among other things, telecommunication policy, tariff and accounting principles, the Internet of things,next-generation networks (NGN) and future networks (FN), security, quality, mobility and multimedia, are of considerable strategic significance for developing countries,

recognizing

*a)* the relatively high level of participation and involvement of developing countries in the meetings of Study Groups 2, 3, 5 and 12 of the ITU Telecommunication Standardization Sector (ITU-T), and their growing levels of participation in other study groups;

*b)* that regional groups have been established within ITU‑T Study Groups 2, 3, 5 and 12;

*c)* that meetings of the regional groups of ITU-T Study Groups 2, 3, 5 and 12 are also held with the support of regional organizations and regional standardization bodies;

*d)* the satisfactory results obtained by the regional approach within the framework of the activities of Study Groups 2, 3, 5 and 12;

*e)* that the activities of most of these regional groups have become increasingly important and encompass a growing number of issues;

*f)* the successful establishment of regional groups under Study Group 3, which leads studies relating to policy, tariff and accounting matters (including costing methodologies) for international telecommunication services and study of related telecommunication economic, accounting and policy issues;

*g)* the sustainability of the regional groups of Study Group 3, and the encouraging start of regional groups[[2]](#footnote-2)2 established in accordance with this resolution,

noting

*a)* the need to increase the participation of developing countries in the work of study groups, with a view to ensuring that their specific needs and concerns are better taken into account;

*b)* the need to improve and strengthen the organization and working methods of the ITU-T study groups in the interests of enhancing the participation of developing countries;

*c)* the importance of having appropriate consultative frameworks for the formulation and study of Questions, the preparation of contributions and capacity building;

*d)* the need for developing countries to be more present and more active within ITU‑T's standardization forums;

*e)* the need to encourage more inclusive participation in the work of ITU‑T, e.g. by academia and experts working in the field of standardization of telecommunication/information and communication technologies, particularly from developing countries;

*f)* the budgetary limitations, especially in developing-country institutions, for attendance at ITU‑T events of specific interest to them;

*g)* the interrelated nature of questions under study in current areas of research (such as telecommunication services and economic aspects of service provision, quality, the Internet of things) and the impossibility of always creating a regional group for individual regions in every ITU-T study group of interest,

bearing in mind

that the application of the organizational set-up and working methods of Study Groups 2, 3, 5 and 12 in some of the other study groups could serve to expand and improve the level of developing country participation in standardization activities and contribute to achieving the objectives of Resolution 123 (Rev. Guadalajara, 2010),

taking into consideration

*a)* the experiences and lessons learned by the regional groups of Study Group 3, and its successors, the regional groups of Study Groups 2, 5 and 12, regarding the operational as well as organizational set-up and working methods;

*b)* the specific process for approving Recommendations foreseen for the regional groups of Study Group 3 in clause 9.2.1 of Resolution 1 (Rev. Dubai, 2012) of this assembly,

recognizing further

*a)* that a common and coordinated approach in regard to standardization could serve to foster the promotion of standardization activities in developing countries;

*b)* that joint meetings of ITU-T regional group, in particular if concatenated with a regional workshop and/or a meeting of a regional organization and regional standardization body, could encourage the participation of developing countries in these meetings and increase the effectiveness of such joint meetings;

*c)* that in developing countries, a few standardization experts are usually responsible for handling numerous standardization areas within their administrations, including issues that concern questions under study simultaneously by a number of ITU‑T study groups;

*d)* that the creation of individual regional groups in every ITU-T study group of interest for developing regions is difficult in financial terms and with regard to the point made in *recognizing further c)* above;

*e)* that simultaneous examination of interrelated questions under study by different ITU-T study groups, within one regional meeting and involving a broad range of relevant experts, may have a positive economic effect and raise the level of discussions and the quality of contributions submitted,

resolves

1 to support by a decision of the relevant regional organizations the conversion of the regional groups created individually in ITU-T Study Groups 2, 3, 5 and 12 into unified regional groups of the ITU Telecommunication Standardization Sector, without change to their actual status;

2 to deem the ITU-T regional groups set up in accordance with *resolves*1 of this Resolution to be already working in the relevant ITU-T study groups in which they were previously established, in accordance with their terms of reference (ToR);

3 to welcome the expansion of the terms of reference of the ITU-T regional groups though participation in other ITU-T study groups of interest, by modifying their terms of reference at a meeting of the relevant ITU-T study group;

4 to encourage cooperation and collaboration of regional groups with regional standardization entities (regional organizations, regional standardization bodies, and so on);

5 to invite the Council to consider providing support for the regional groups as appropriate,

invites the regions and their Member States

1 to take the necessary steps in accordance with *resolves* 1 to 4 of this resolution, and to support meetings and activities of the regional groups, as appropriate, in coordination with TSB;

2 to develop draft terms of reference and working methods for these regional groups, which are to be approved by the relevant study groups as regards areas of concern to them;

3 to create regional standardization bodies, as appropriate, and encourage joint and coordinated meetings of such bodies with the regional groups of ITU-T in their respective regions, so that these standardization bodies act as an umbrella for such regional group meetings,

invites the regional groups thus created

1 to disseminate information about telecommunication standardization and encourage the involvement of developing countries in standardization activities in their regions, and to submit to the relevant study groups in which they work in accordance with approved terms of reference written contributions reflecting the priorities of their respective regions;

2 to cooperate closely with the relevant respective regional organizations and ITU regional offices,

instructs study groups and the Telecommunication Standardization Advisory Group

to coordinate meetings of the regional groups of ITU-T,

instructs the Director of the Telecommunication Standardization Bureau, in collaboration with the Director of the Telecommunication Development Bureau, within the allocated or contributed resources that are available

1 to provide all necessary support to the regional groups, ensure their smooth functioning and promote the expansion of their terms of reference through participation in new ITU-T study groups of interest;

2 to consider holding, whenever possible, workshops concurrently with meetings of the ITU-T regional groups in the relevant regions, and vice versa;

3 to take all necessary measures to facilitate the organization of meetings and workshops of the regional groups,

calls upon the Director of the Telecommunication Standardization Bureau

to cooperate with the Director of the Telecommunication Development Bureau in order to:

i) continue to provide specific assistance to the current regional groups of Study Group 3 as well as other regional groups, until their full conversion in accordance with the terms of *resolves* of this Resolution;

ii) encourage the continuing development of computerized application tools related to their cost methodology by the members of the regional groups working in Study Group 3;

iii) take appropriate steps to facilitate meetings of the current and converted regional groups of Study Group 3 and promote the necessary synergies between the two Sectors,

further invites the regional groups thus created

to cooperate closely with the relevant respective regional organizations, standardization bodies and ITU regional offices, and report on their work in their regions to the study groups in which those groups work in accordance with their terms of reference.

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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)
2. 2 Regional groups are open, without exclusion, to the participation of all members belonging to the specific region where the regional group is created. [↑](#footnote-ref-2)