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| **Title:** | Developing overall standardization strategies - Considerations for the TSAG Rapporteur Group on Standardization Strategy |
| **Purpose:** | Discussion |
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| **Keywords:** | Overall standardization strategy; regions; CTO meetings |
| **Abstract:** | Standardization needs, even those related to the same technology or the same subject, could differ according to the degree of development of the countries and from a region to another. So, in order to develop overall standardization strategies, the standardization needs, issues, challenges and priorities from all regions should be taken into account. This current contribution will focus on this aspect and will provide some proposals on how to get more inputs from all regions. |

**Discussion**

During its 1-5 February 2016 meeting, the TSAG approved the creation of a new Rapporteur Group on Standardization Strategy, which will be co-led by a panel of Rapporteurs as proposed by the TSB Director during the WTSA-16.

According to the TSB Director’s suggested guidelines, the objectives of the RG-SS panel are as follows:

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* *Develop inputs to the Rapporteur Group including:*
	+ *Issues*
	+ *Priorities*
	+ *Challenges and strategy for standards*
* *Study on technical and market trends*
* *Identify industry needs and requirements*
* *Draft ITU-T standardization strategy (e.g. by expert groups and by issues)”*

However, standardisation-related issues, priorities and challenges as well as industry needs and requirements may vary from a region to another depending of the degree of development of the region’s countries as well as the market context.

Consequently, developing overall standardization strategies, requires a clear and complete vision on the standardization priorities and needs in all regions, and should take into account these differences in order to be globally recognized.

In addition, knowing that their standardization concerns, priorities and requirements are taken into account in the ITU-T standardisation strategies, countries from all regions, including developing countries, will be encouraged to get further involved in the ITU-T activities and increase their participation in the work of the ITU-T study groups and their regional groups which will help bridge the standardization gap between developed and developing countries.

In this regard, the challenges of the RG-SS panel will be: how to be aware of these different regional standardization needs? and how to get feedbacks and input information related to all regions?

To try to respond to these questions, this contribution brings to the attention of the RG-SS some ideas for discussion during its first meeting in this new study period, which are given as follows:

* CTO meetings are considered as an important source of information to the RG-SS panel as they involve high-level, private sector executives to discuss the standardization landscape, identifying and coordinating standards priorities and ways to best meet the needs of the private sector. As CTO meetings are held once a year, usually in conjunction with the ITU Telecom World event, it would be preferable to hold the CTO meetings in different regions, on a periodic basis, if a host is available. Participation of the CTOs of the ITU-T Sector Members from all regions should be also encouraged;
* Holding CTO consultation meetings could be very interesting to bring to the CTO meeting, and then to the RG-SS panel, information on the regional standardization needs, including needs from developing countries. However, till now, only three CTO consultation meetings were held, two in Asia (in April 2015 and March 2016) and one in North America (in March 2017). So, it would be interesting to increase the number of CTO consultation meetings per year and plan CTO Consultation meetings in all regions, comprising developing countries, so that, each region would host consultation meetings between two successive WTSAs;
* Encourage the organization of future CxO meetings (x=E, T, I, C, …) in other regions following the success of the first CxO meeting for the Arab and African Regions held in Tunisia on the 23rd of October 2016. This kind of meetings will not only provide a technical viewpoint from the industry, but will also enable discussions from strategic perspective;
* Provide remote access to the CTO meetings, and CTO Consultation meetings only for CTOs who show interest to participate or contribute to these meetings but can’t attend them physically, and that, in order to encourage more participation from all regions, including developing countries;
* The RG-SS panel could disseminate surveys and questionnaires to help identify the standardization needs and priorities from all regions;
* The promotion of the RG-SS scope and activities would be stimulating in order to encourage the submission of relevant contributions to the future RG-SS meetings from all regions.

**Proposal**

Tunisie Télécom would like to invite the Rapporteur Group on Standardization Strategy to consider this contribution as a proposed document for discussion during its meeting in May 2017.

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