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| **TSAG** |
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| **Source:** | Central African Republic |
| **Title:** | The effective use of the six official languages of the Union on an equal footing in the work of ITU-T. |
| **Purpose:** | Proposal |
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| **Keywords:** | Languages of the Union; translation; equal footing. |
| **Abstract:** | Ensure the effective use of the six official languages ​​of the Union on an equal footing in ITU-T work in order to effectively bridge the standardization gap between developing and developed countries. |

**DISCUSSION**

With respect to **Resolution 44 (Rev. Hammamet, 2016)** on Bridging the standardization gap between developing and developed countries, reference is made to the following points:

- That in Resolution 123 (Rev. Busan, 2014) on bridging the standardization gap between developing and developed countries, the Plenipotentiary Conference instructs the Secretary-General and the Directors of the three Bureaux to work closely with each other on the follow-up and implementation of this Resolution and related Resolutions, and in pursuing initiatives intended to enhance efforts to bridge the standardization gap between developing and developed countries as well as on follow-up and implementation of the operative paragraph of this resolution, supporting coordination in this respect at the regional level through regional offices and organizations.

- That in Resolution 154 (Rev. Busan, 2014), the Plenipotentiary Conference resolves to continue to take all necessary measures to ensure the use of the six official languages ​​of the Union on an equal footing.

- That it is very important for developing countries to increase their participation in the development and widespread use of telecommunication standards and to enhance their contribution to the work of ITU-T Study Groups.

- That, in accordance with the Union's strategic plan for the period 2016-2019, the ITU-T aims specifically to encourage the active participation of members, in particular developing countries, in the definition and adoption of non-discriminatory international standards on ICTs (ITU-T Recommendations), with a view to reduce (bridging) the standardization gap.

- That interpretation is essential to enable all delegates, especially those from developing countries, to be fully informed of ITU-T standardization decisions taken at ITU-T meetings and to participate in those decisions.

- That interpretation services should be provided, as requested by participants, at all plenary sessions of study groups and working groups and the entire meeting of TSAG.

- To highlight the problems faced by developing countries in bridging the standardization gap between Member States.

**PROPOSAL**

To this end, the Central African Republic suggests that it is vital to remind the chairmen of the study groups of the importance of interpretation during the plenary sessions and working groups of the ITU-T study groups in order to avoid a language barrier from further accentuating the standardization gap between developed and developing countries, especially in French speaking countries. It should be noted that interpretation is essential to enable all delegates, particularly those from developing countries, to be fully informed of ITU-T standardization decisions taken at ITU-T meetings and to participate effectively in these decisions.

In addition, it is important to consider the problem of languages ​​as one of the main issues that developing countries face in bridging the standardization gap between Member States, particularly those in French-speaking countries. This language problem is evident on the ITU-T website, where 80% of the documents and even the standards are in English, disregarding the other five languages ​​of the Union. This also applies to the Bridging the Standardization Gap (BSG) training programme which should be made available in all six languages ​​of the Union, in order to achieve optimal effectiveness within the 193 States of the Union since presently the training is being provided primarily in English.

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