TSAG – LS 24R1

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| ITU Logo | INTERNATIONAL TELECOMMUNICATION UNION**TELECOMMUNICATIONSTANDARDIZATION SECTOR**STUDY PERIOD 2017-2020 | TSAG-C41 |
| **TSAG** |
| **Original: English** |
| **Question(s):** | N/A | Geneva, 26 February - 2 March 2018 |
| **CONTRIBUTION** |
| **Source:** | Russian Federation |
| **Title:** | Streamlining the WTSA Resolutions  |
| **Purpose:** | Proposal |
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| **Keywords:** | Resolutions WTSA, WTSA, PP, WTDC, RA |
| **Abstract:** | This contribution proposes to consider ways of streamlining the resolutions of WTSA and the proposals for the linking of WTSA and PP resolutions, as well as guidelines for streamlining existing WTSA resolutions and the preparation of new resolutions |

**I Introduction**

After WTSA-16 there are 60 WTSA resolutions in force (13 - Rev.Dubai, 2012, 47 - Rev/New Hammamet, 2016).

Director TSB in document TD GEN 156 presented a detailed mapping of the WTSA Resolutions against the PP Resolution on the same or similar subject areas.

A number of WTSA resolutions are directly based on relevant PP resolutions. Practically the recitals of the documents are very close and the crucial part of the WTSA resolution is a repetition and/or detail operational element(s) of the PP resolution.

Similar examples can be given in respect of the resolutions adopted by WTDC and RA, for example:

| **Subject area** | **PP** **Resolution** | **WTSA** **Resolution** | **WTDC Resolution** | **RA** **Resolution** |
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| Regional presence | PP Res.25 | WTSA Res.54 | WTDC Res.17 | ITU-R Res.48 |
| WSIS+SDG | PP Res.140 | WTSA Res.75 | WTDC Res.30 | ITU-R Res.61 |
| Sector Members, Associates | PP Res.152 | WTSA Res.31 | WTDC Res.27 | ITU-R Res.43 |
| Official Languages | PP Res.154 | WTSA Res.67 | WTDC Res. 86  | ITU-R Res.35/36 |
| Chairmanship in SGs/Advisory Groups | PP Res.166 | WTSA Res.35 | WTDC Res.61 | ITU-R Res.15 |
| Accessibility  | PP Res.175 | WTSA Res.70 | WTDC Res 58 | ITU-R Res.67 |
| Conformance & Interoperability | PP Res.177 | WTSA Res.76 | WTDC Res.47 | ITU-R Res.62 |
| Inter-Sector coordination | PP Res.191 | WTSA Res.18 | WTDC Res.59 | ITU-R Res.6&7 |

It seems appropriate, under preparation for the Plenipotentiary conference, to consider the possibility and desirability for PP-18 to develop and agree on resolutions on issues, covering three or, in certain cases, two Sectors, in such a way that under consideration of the issue at the sectoral assemblies/conference, either not to apply sectoral resolutions, or their content should contain only a reference to the relevant PP resolution, those new developments and documents directly affecting the activities of a particular Sector and those that have occurred after the PP and specific instructions to this Sector.

For example, in the case of endorsement of a common approach to the appointment of Chairmen/Vice-chairmen of the SGs/Advisory groups of the sectors, there will be no need in the similar sectoral resolution and will require only an appropriate link in Resolution 1.

 In order to streamline the existing WTSA resolutions and develop new resolutions, it is proposed to use TSAG-16 document TSAG – LS 24R1 prepared by the Rapporteur RG WPR Dr. F.Bigi and draw on the experience of the corresponding group of the TDAG under the leadership of Dr. A. Sharafat. The group agreed on draft guidelines for the streamlining of WTDC resolutions, which were used in the preparation to WTDC-17.

**II Proposals**

2.1 In preparation to the Plenipotentiary conference and considering the revision of existing and preparation of new resolutions of the Plenipotentiary conference to take into consideration the goals and objectives of the Telecommunication Standardization Sector reflected in the draft ITU Strategic Plan for 2020-2023 in the part concerning the ITU-T.

2.2. According to the results of PP-18, with the assistance of the Secretariat, to identify specific instructions to the ITU-T contained in the outcome documents of the PP-18, and on their basis to review the WTSA resolutions by simplifying them via links on the relevant PP resolution and to define specific instructions to the sector on the subject or by suppression of WTSA resolution with the reflection of the relevant requirements in another resolution.

2.3 Review and agree on the guidelines for streamlining existing WTSA resolutions and for the preparation of new resolutions contained in the Annex.

 ANNEX

DRAFT GUIDING PRINCIPLES FOR STREAMLINING WTSA RESOLUTIONS

A. Guiding principles for streamlining existing WTSA resolutions

At WTSA, all in-force WTSA resolutions should be examined with the objective to suppress completed/obsolete ones and parts thereof.

The following guiding principles might prove useful in the work on streamlining resolutions and are be followed to the extent possible to help the ITU membership to draft proposals, so that resolutions of the World Telecommunication Standardization Assembly are concise and ITU-T focused; implementable; effective; and stay abreast with the evolution of telecommunication and information technologies and the ICT standardization environment, taking into account SDGs:

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| Principle | Questions |
| Coherence and consistency | Is the resolution consistent with the ITU-T mandate and the WTSA-16 Action Plan? |
| Overlap and duplication | Is there an overlap or duplication with existing WTSA resolutions or with the WTSA-16 Action Plan? Are the goals of resolutions already reflected in the ITU-T Strategic Plan objectives, outputs and outcomes, Study Group (SG) questions or working methods? |
| Necessity | Is the resolution indispensable? Is there already another WTSA/Council/PP resolution or resolutions which address the same topic or action? Has the resolution already been implemented? |
| Action-orientation and accountability | Does the resolution call for a specific action or outcome? Is there a clear accountability line in the resolution? What are the cost implications of the resolution for ITU-T, in terms of implementation budget and related costs? |

All similar/related subjects should be addressed in one single WTSA resolution to the extent possible ("stand-alone principle"). In general, streamlining existing resolutions is preferable rather than adding a new WTSA resolution.

When the actions or activities put forward in a resolution have been implemented or accomplished, the resolution can be viewed as fulfilled and can be removed.

If no change is to be made to the substance of the WTSA resolution, no editorial updates (such as date/venue of conference) will be made to the WTSA resolution, i.e. it should remain as is (unchanged).

Editorial revisions of adopted resolutions should be kept to the minimum or to what is strictly necessary for its efficient implementation.

If only editorial updates are required to a WTSA resolution, the need to produce a revised version should be questioned.

#### B. Guidelines for drafting new WTSA Resolutions

New resolutions are intended to address issues which are demonstrably new and of highest importance for ITU-T or define working methods, and which have not been considered in existing WTSA documents or internationally agreed development agendas.

Concretely:

* New proposed resolutions should be aligned and harmonized with existing ones;
* New proposed resolutions should involve a distinct new subject within the scope of ITU-T and/or an issue that represents a significant new or unaddressed challenge related to telecommunication/ICT development or public policy;
* New proposed resolutions should normally not involve a subject already covered in the WTSA Action Plan and the ITU-T Operational Plan;
* If an existing Plenipotentiary Conference (PP) resolution identifies a priority issue, the need for a similar WTSA resolution should be carefully considered;
* The need for a new WTSA resolution should be carefully examined if a new proposed resolution involves subjects already covered by internationally agreed development goals, such as the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and the goals of the World Summit on the Information Society (WSIS), as those are also already established as reporting lines;
* A new proposed resolution should specify an expected result(s) or outcome(s) so that its implementation can be measured, in line with result-based management principles. It should likewise specify an appropriate reporting mechanism.
* Normally a WTSA resolution should not exceed four A4-pages (except Resolutions 1 and 2).
* The "preamble" part of a WTSA resolution should be as concise as possible, summarizing key rationales for justification. Normally it should not exceed one A4-page. While any additional explanation and justification such as a detailed chronicle of events, bibliography, historical activities and achievements could be submitted as background material in a contribution, their inclusion should be avoided in the adopted final WTSA resolution text. A separate publication could be produced and referenced by this WTSA resolution if necessary.
* Cross-reference to other ITU resolutions should be kept to the minimum as necessary ("minimum cross-reference principle"), at the same time striking a balance not to insert material copied from other instruments.
* Once an ITU resolution on the same/relevant subject is referenced, any duplicated justification/rational text should be avoided whereas additional ITU-T specific justification/rational could be added to this WTSA resolution ("no repetition principle").
* Reference to the ITU Constitution, Convention and the General rules should prevail a reference to a resolution of a Plenipotentiary conference when applicable, and could exist together with a duplication of the referred text to make the WTSA resolution stand on its own (exception to "stand-alone principle").
* When reference to the conclusion or output of an event is deemed necessary, the reference should be meaningful and in substance to specify its relevance, avoiding only listing the event per se ("no chronicle of events principle").
* References to literature should be meaningful and in substance to specify its relevance ("no bibliography principle").
* When drafting the "operational" part of a WTSA resolution, it should be borne in mind that:
	+ an instruction given to the ITU membership is non-binding;
	+ an instruction given to ITU-T SG will serve little purpose unless followed up by a contribution to the ITU-T study group to drive the work to progress.
* The "operational" part of a WTSA resolution should:
	+ use an appropriate verb to specify an implementable action by a respective entity according to its proper mandate ("identified entity and specific action principle");
	+ specify an expected result(s) so that the achievement in implementing this action can be measurable as much as possible using objective measurement methodologies ("measurable result principle");
	+ plan or recommend a course of actions with milestones/check-points as appropriate ("planning principle"); and
	+ specify a reporting and expiration mechanism as appropriate ("report/expire principle").