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| ITU Logo | INTERNATIONAL TELECOMMUNICATION UNION**TELECOMMUNICATIONSTANDARDIZATION SECTOR**STUDY PERIOD 2017-2020 | TSAG-Cn |
| **TSAG** |
| **Original: English** |
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| **CONTRIBUTION** |
| **Source:** | ARGENTINA |
| **Title:** | Participation of SMEs in ITU-T Study Groups |
| **Purpose:** | Proposal |
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| **Keywords:** | ITU-T Study Groups; SMEs. |
| **Abstract:** | This contribution aims to propose some actions, within ITU-T, to foster the participation of SMEs in its Study Groups, in accordance with the decision adopted by ITU Council 2017 to carry out a pilot project for the participation of SMEs in ITU-T and ITU-D Study Groups. |

**Background**

The ITU Council 2017 decided to carry out a pilot project for the participation of small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) in the ITU-T and ITU-D Study Groups (see Annex, Terms of Reference agreed by the Council 2017).

The trial period will last until the next Plenipotentiary Conference (PP-18), that will take place in Dubai (UAE), from 29 October to 16 November.

BDT has already delivered a Circular Letter inviting SMEs to participate in theirs ITU-D Study Groups 1 and 2 Meetings.

For the time being, within ITU-T, only ITU-T Study Group 20 has formally invited SMEs to participate of their work.

**Proposal**

TSAG to decide which ITU-T Study Groups will be participating of the pilot project and request TSB to send a Circular Letter inviting SMEs, in accordance with the Terms of Reference agreed by the Council 2017, to participate in their meetings. Considering also that ITU-T SG 5 and ITU-T SG 20 had already offered to take part in the pilot project.

The Study Groups selected to participate in the pilot project for the participation of small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) in the ITU-T and ITU-D Study Groups, should mentioned so in every TSB Collective Letter announcing its meetings.

**References**

Circular BDT/IP/CSTG-3

[Document C17/120-E](https://www.itu.int/md/S17-CL-C-0120/en)

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ANNEX

**Terms of Reference for a**

**Small and Medium Enterprises (SMEs) Pilot Project**

1. The pilot project for SME participation will be open to interested Study Groups of ITU-T and ITU-D.
2. The pilot project would be promoted in collaboration between the involved Bureaux, regional organizations, concerned administrations and the ITU regional and area offices through contact with SMEs and SME associations.
3. SMEs may participate fully in the meetings of the participating Study Groups conducting the pilot project, with the exception of any role in decision-making, including leadership roles and the adoption of resolutions or recommendations regardless of the approval procedures.
4. The request of an SME to participate in the pilot project will be submitted via the concerned administration, which should confirm that they meet the national criteria to be recognized as an SME, including factors such as size of company and annual revenues.
5. The pilot project would run until PP-18. The secretariat will provide a progress report to the next Council, with a view towards presenting a full report for PP-18, including the benefits experienced, financial implications, and challenges to be addressed.

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