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| ITU Logo | INTERNATIONAL TELECOMMUNICATION UNION**TELECOMMUNICATIONSTANDARDIZATION SECTOR**STUDY PERIOD 2017-2020 | TSAG-C55 |
| **TSAG** |
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| **Question(s):** | N/A | Geneva, 10-14 December 2018 |
| **CONTRIBUTION** |
| **Source:** | GSMA |
| **Title:** | TSAG to progress ITU Plenipotentiary 2018 Proposal on rights and obligations of the various categories of membership and participation in the work of ITU-T |
| **Purpose:** | Discussion |
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| **Keywords:** | Sector Membership; Plenipotentiary; |
| **Abstract:** | The Plenary of the ITU Plenipotentiary Conference (Dubai 2018) proposed that WTSA review WTSA Resolutions regarding, inter alia, participation of ITU Sector Members in the regional groups of ITU-T Study Groups. This paper presents the issue and proposes a way forward for the consideration of TSAG. |

**Introduction**

Several Contributions from Regional Groups and from Member States to the ITU Plenipotentiary Conference (Dubai 2018) addressed, inter alia, the topic of the rights of ITU Sector Members to participate in ITU-T meetings. These Contributions made reference to the commitment of the ITU to transparency and to the representation and involvement of all the membership in the work of the Union. They also referred to the fact that Recommendations, Reports and other outputs of the Sectors of the Union are strengthened when they are based on the views and expertise of the entire membership.

The current situation relating to participation of Sector Members is complex, as different sub-categories within the Sector Membership have slightly different rights, and there is a lack of consistency in the way that Sector Members are permitted to attend, and/or participate in, meetings of regional groups of ITU-T Study Groups. Furthermore, there is a lack of clarity about the relative importance of the different instruments within the ITU that govern the participation in meetings of different categories of Sector Member.

**Discussion**

The discussions on participation in meetings at the ITU Plenipotentiary Conference (Dubai 2018) resulted in a Proposal to the World Telecommunication Standardisation Assembly - “*to review, in the context of Article 3 of the ITU Constitution, and revise, as appropriate, WTSA Resolution 1, WTSA Resolution 2, WTSA Resolution 22 and WTSA Resolution 54 to clarify the criteria for creation, participation and termination of regional groups of Study Groups, and the role of TSAG in this regard*.”

Given the complexity and lack of clarity about meeting participation, and on the basis that TSAG is recognised in the text above as having a role, we request that TSAG commence the preparatory work, with the purpose of preparing effectively for the review and revision process at WTSA.

**Proposal**

That TSAG establish a Rapporteur Group to undertake a review of the *criteria for creation, participation and termination of regional groups of Study Groups, and the role of TSAG in this regard,* and that the findings that arise from such a review are submitted to WTSA 2020 for consideration and implementation.

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