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| ITU logo | INTERNATIONAL TELECOMMUNICATION UNION**TELECOMMUNICATIONSTANDARDIZATION SECTOR**STUDY PERIOD 2017-2020 | TSAG-TD397 |
| **TSAG** |
| **Original: English** |
| **Question(s):** | N/A | Geneva, 10-14 December 2018 |
| **TD** |
| **Source:** | ITU-T representative to the MoU/MG on e-business |
| **Title:** | Resolutions and actions of the Management Group of the MoU on e-business |
| **Purpose:** | Information, Action |
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| **Keywords:** | MoU on e-business; eAccessibility and eInclusion; ISO 8601; quantum computing; smart manufacturing; |
| **Abstract:** | This document gathers relevant resolutions and actions taken at the 40th meeting of the Management Group of the ISO, IEC, ITU, UN/ECE memorandum of understanding (MoU) on e-business, hosted by UN/CEFACT (Geneva, Switzerland), on 5 December 2018. |

# Background

The purpose of the MoU on electronic business between IEC, ISO, ITU, and UN/ECE is to minimize the risk of divergent and competitive approaches to standardization, avoid duplication of efforts and avoid confusion amongst users in the field of e-business.

The MoU establishes a coordination mechanism under a unique cooperative model to produce mutually supportive standards required in business transactions (data interchange and interoperability) as well as products design and manufacturing to meet the urgent needs of both the industry and the end-users. E‑business covers the information definition and exchange requirements within and between enterprises, including customers.

Under the MoU, the four organizations undertake to review their standardization activities and develop a joint, coordinated programme for standards development and publication which will benefit the marketplace.

The MoU is open to other international, regional, governmental, industry and consumer organizations whose core mission involves standards-setting.

In agreement with the TSB Director, Mr. Olivier Dubuisson (Orange, France) is the ITU-T representative at the MoU/MG together with Mr. Martin Euchner (TSB).

More information at <http://itu.int/ITU-T/e-business/mou/>

# Information of relevance to TSAG

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| ***Resolution 18/01***Given the fact that due to the high number of persons with disabilities (about 1 bn today) and its forecasted further increase in the course of aging societies, standards on **eAccessibility and eInclusion** (and the respective standardization activities) figure high on the political agenda and in legislation world-wide. Increasingly laws refer to accessibility standards which are thus becoming part of the law. Thus these standards have an impact on more or less all societal aspects in general, and broadly on industry and trade – especially in conjunction with public procurement – in particular. This also implies that the aspect of eAccessibility and eInclusion necessarily needs to be considered in the standardization activities in more or less all technical committees.Therefore, the MoU/MG resolves:* to take up the topic of eAccessibility and eInclusion, including the aspects of e-procurement and electronic invoicing as a theme that needs coordination;
* to endorse Recommendation 2016 [see Annex A to this TD] concerning standards on eAccessibility and eInclusion;
* to consider an online webinar or similar for the MoU/MG to discuss the impact of eAccessibilty and eInclusion on all stakeholders, organizations involved and technical committees represented.
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***Proposed action*:** ITU-T JCA-AHF to take appropriate measures.

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| ***Resolution 18/04***MoU/MG encourages its members to reference in their standards the revised ISO 8601 series of standards on **date and time**. |

***Proposed action*:** Study groups to note.

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| ***Action* *18/01***MoU/MG invites its members to provide inputs to the next MoU/MG meeting [4 Dec 2019] on the subject of **quantum computing** in the scope of electronic business. |

***Proposed action*:** SG13 and SG17, in particular, to inform the ITU-T representative to the MoU/MG on e-business in due course.

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| ***Action* *18/02***MoU/MG invites its members to provide inputs to the next MoU/MG meeting [4 Dec 2019] on the subject of **smart manufacturing** in the scope of electronic business. |

***Proposed action*:** SG20, in particular, to inform the ITU-T representative to the MoU/MG on e-business if appropriate.

**Annex A:
Recommendation 2016** **concerning standards on
eAccessibility and eInclusion**

*(drafted at the IN LIFE Workshop "Strategic Standardization Issues Concerning eAccessibility & eInclusion" at the 15th International Conference on Computers Helping People with Special Needs – ICCHP 2016, in Linz, Austria, in July 2016)*

**Purpose:**

Increasingly R&D projects and the software industry – especially for mobile technologies – consider the "Recommendation on software and content development principles 2010" whereby

*"decision makers in public as well as private frameworks, software developers, the content industry and developers of pertinent standards /should be/ aware that multilinguality, multimodality, eInclusion and eAccessibility need to be considered from the outset in software and content development. These considerations are required in order to avoid the need for additional or remedial engineering or redesign at the time of adaptation, which tend to be very costly and often prove to be impossible."*

Since 2010, hundreds of standards about eAccessibility and eInclusion were developed or revised by technical committees in standards organisations at international, European, or national level – not to mention many industry standards developed by other standards developing organisations (SDO). In addition, there are possibly thousands of standards that have a bearing on persons with disabilities (PwD). In particular, ‘accessibility’ in a broad sense rarely occurs in the title or in the body of these standards.

"Recommendation 2016" addresses critical issues identified in recent conferences, initiatives and projects dealing with eAccessibility and eInclusion and related topics concerning the difficulties faced by system developers, their customers, health care providers and end-users when trying to find and apply pertinent standards.

**The organizations endorsing Recommendation 2016 call upon stakeholders of eAccessibility and eInclusion, in particular standards developing organizations (SDOs) to:**

* develop a more refined classification or keywording approach to identify content in standards with a bearing on eAccessibility and eInclusion
* register the potential relevance for eAccessibility & eInclusion of an emerging standard right from the beginning of a standardization activity
* cross-reference standards having a bearing on eAccessibility and eInclusion
* encourage the formulation and use of consistent vocabulary / terminology
* implement search functionalities that ease the use of standards
* facilitate the active involvement of PwD as end-users in standardizing activities among others by providing standards documents in an ‘accessible’ format

**Implementing the above measures would enhance interoperability of eAccessibility & eInclusion related products and services and thus benefit users of standards and standardization at large.**

**Recommendation:**

Standards development processes and monitoring in conjunction with standards about eAccessibility and eInclusion and related aspects, should allow the coordination of standardizing activities across technical committees and SDOs, leading to content coherence among standards about similar themes. This would help industry and other organizations to comply with standards’ requirements referring to corporate social responsibility and risk management, as well as with the latest legal regulations on accessibility in eProcurement and public websites.

Supportive measures may be worthwhile pursuing, to (a) promote certification schemes based on standards about eAccessibility and eInclusion, (b) encourage education and training activities regarding such standards, and (c) enhance the positive role that media (both institutional and social) and civil society can play here.

**Online endorsement:** [aaate-endorsed-the-recommendation-2016-concerning-standards-on-eaccessibility-and-einclusion](http://aaate.net/2017/04/14/aaate-endorsed-the-recommendation-2016-concerning-standards-on-eaccessibility-and-einclusion/)

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