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| **TSAG** | |
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| **Title:** | | | Progress report by the Inter-Sector Coordination GROUP (ISCG) on Issues of Mutual Interest | | |
| **Purpose:** | | | Information | | |
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| Keywords: | ISCG; inter-Sector coordination; |
| Abstract: | The Inter-Sector Coordination Group[[1]](#footnote-1)[1] (ISCG) on issues of mutual interest was established jointly by the Advisory Groups of all ITU Sectors –  Radiocommunication Advisory Group (RAG), the Telecommunication Standardization Advisory Group (TSAG), and the Telecommunication Development Advisory Group (TDAG)  Resolution 191 (Rev. Dubai, 2018) of the Plenipotentiary Conference invited RAG, TSAG, and TDAG to continue to assist ISCG in identifying subjects common and mechanisms to enhance cooperation and collaboration on matters of mutual interest.  The group identifies subjects common to the three Sectors and the General Secretariat, or, bilaterally, and considers an updated list containing the areas of mutual interest to the three Sectors and the General Secretariat pursuant to the mandates assigned by each ITU assembly or conference, and in accordance with the objectives of the ITU Strategic Plan.  The group also identifies the necessary mechanisms to strengthen cooperation and joint activity among the three Sectors and the General Secretariat, or with each Sector, on issues of mutual interest.  This report provides an update on the work of the group undertaken since April 2019. |

**Action required:**

TSAG is invited to note the document.

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| **Inter-Sector Coordination Group (ISCG) on issues of mutual interest**  **Geneva, 25 September 2019** | C:\Users\comas\AppData\Local\Temp\Rar$DRa0.735\jpg\ITU official logo_blue_RGB.jpg |
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|  | **Document TSAG****-TD589 (ISCG-19-2/05-E)** |
|  | **25 September 2019** |
|  | **Original: English** |
| Chairman of the Inter-Sector Coordination Group (ISCG) | |
| progress report  by the Inter-Sector Coordination GROUP (ISCG)  on Issues of Mutual Interest | |
|  | |
| **Summary:**  The Inter-Sector Coordination Group[[2]](#footnote-2) (ISCG) on issues of mutual interest was established jointly by the Advisory Groups of all ITU Sectors – Radiocommunication Advisory Group (RAG), the Telecommunication Standardization Advisory Group (TSAG), and the Telecommunication Development Advisory Group (TDAG)  Resolution 191 (Rev. Dubai, 2018) of the Plenipotentiary Conference invited RAG, TSAG, and TDAG to continue to assist ISCG in identifying subjects common and mechanisms to enhance cooperation and collaboration on matters of mutual interest.  The group identifies subjects common to the three Sectors and the General Secretariat, or, bilaterally, and considers an updated list containing the areas of mutual interest to the three Sectors and the General Secretariat pursuant to the mandates assigned by each ITU assembly or conference, and in accordance with the objectives of the ITU Strategic Plan.  The group also identifies the necessary mechanisms to strengthen cooperation and joint activity among the three Sectors and the General Secretariat, or with each Sector, on issues of mutual interest.  This report provides an update on the work of the group undertaken since April 2019.  **Action required:**  TSAG is invited to note the document.  **References:**  PP Resolution 191 (Rev. Dubai, 2018) | |

1. **Background / 1st meeting for 2019 during TDAG**

During its meeting on 4 April 2019, the ISCG updated the ToR to include General Secretariat in the scope of work. ISCG reviewed the mappings of common interest areas of work between ITU-D and ITU-R study groups, in addition to, between ITU-D and ITU-T study groups and between ITU-R and ITU-T study groups. This mapping table is posted on the [ISCG website](https://www.itu.int/en/general-secretariat/Pages/ISCG/ISCT_Documents-Mapping_Tables.aspx) and RAG, TSAG and TDAG are requested to update this table regularly at their meetings by adding the updated Questions and studies carried out in the relevant study groups. ISCG also reviewed the mapping of resolutions of PP, RA/WRC, WTSA and WTDC. This mapping table is also posted on the [ISCG website](https://www.itu.int/en/general-secretariat/Pages/ISCG/ISCT_Documents-Mapping_Tables.aspx) and each Sector is invited to review, provide comments and make use of this mapping table with a view to streamlining resolutions.

1. **ISCG 2nd Meeting for 2019**

**Opening remarks by the Deputy Secretary-General**

The Deputy Secretary-General welcomed the participants and highlighted the importance of having the meetings of this group to take place during every Sector advisory group meeting, following the Council’s discussions. The work of the Secretariat was emphasized providing common secretariat support to the Inter-Sectoral Coordination Task Force (ISC-TF) and ISCG, in order to enhance coordination and exchange of information, and integrating the web-page for ISCG under the common section on Inter-Sectoral Coordination under the General Secretariat’s page (<https://www.itu.int/en/general-secretariat/Pages/intersectoral-coordination.aspx>), so that all information to be found at the same place. The group was informed that the work on Inter-Sector Coordination had also been discussed during the CWG-FHR meeting the week before, where ISC-TF had submitted its contribution, and that CWG-FHR had invited the secretariat, as well as ISCG, to submit a report to its meeting in February 2020. The Deputy Secretary-General reiterated the secretariat’s commitment to support membership in its coordination efforts.

**Outcomes of the 2019 Session of Council –** [ISCG/19-2/02](https://www.itu.int/en/general-secretariat/Documents/Intersectoral_Coordination/Meetings/20190925/ISCG-19-2-02_Council2019-on-InterSectoralCoordination.docx) **and Follow-up**

The Secretariat provided an update on the outcomes of Council on the topic of inter-sectoral coordination: *a)* the proposal to have ISCG meetings during TSAG and RAG, not only TDAG; *b)* the integration of the web-pages of the ISC-TF and ISCG; *c)* the provision of common secretariat support for IS; and *d)* Council’s Decision to revise the Terms of Reference of the CWG on Financial and Human Resources to include issues of inter-sectoral coordination. More information on the follow-up actions undertaken to respond to the above requests were also provided.

The group appreciated the work and the common web-page that was created, however it invited all the Sectors, to try to align the links from all the Sector advisory groups to the new web-page on inter-sectoral coordination, by having them in a more visible place in their respective web-sites. The group also noted that the formats themselves of the web pages of the three Sector advisory groups are quite different, and they would need to be harmonized.

**Report on the implementation of Res.191 to Council –** [C19/38 Rev.1](https://www.itu.int/md/S19-CL-C-0038/en) **/ Information document on Possible areas of mutual interest to the three Sectors and the General Secretariat –** [C19/INF/06](https://www.itu.int/md/S19-CL-INF-0006/en)

The Chief of the Strategic Planning and Membership Dept. of the General Secretariat introduced the two documents that reported on: *a)* the implementation of Res. 191 (Rev. Dubai, 2018) on the strategy for the coordination of efforts among the three Sectors of the Union, and *b)* the information document that presented: *i)* a list of possible areas of mutual interest to the three Sectors and the General Secretariat; *ii)* a mapping of Resolutions from PP, RA, WTSA, and WTDC; and *iii*) mappings of common interest areas of work among the ITU-R, ITU-T and ITU-D Study Groups.

A summary of the areas of common interest presented in the document are included in the ANNEX to this Report.

The Chairman of TSAG updated the group on the discussions that took place during the TSAG rapporteur groups on the issue of the mapping tables for Study Group questions, and informed the group that a Liaison Statement should be expected by ISCG, ISC-TF, the other Sector advisory groups and the Study Groups.

The group also discussed the issue of the reference to Inter-Sector Coordination Groups in Res.1 of the RA, which is an old concept that does not exist anymore. The Chairman of TSAG suggested that the reference to ISCG in Res.1 of RA should be deleted, as well as the Annex 3 of Res.6 of the RA. It was clarified that in order for any suggestions to be taken into consideration by the RA, an input/contribution by a Member State should be formally submitted.

**Discussion on strengthening cooperation and joint activity on issues of mutual interest**

*Input from ISC-TF: Secretariat’s Proposal for Strengthening Inter-Sectoral Coordination*

The Secretariat introduced the presentation aiming to further enhance inter-sectoral coordination, highlighting the continued efforts within the secretariat in this area. The context and guiding principles provided by Res. 191 (Rev. Dubai, 2018), as well as the relevant parts of the ITU strategic and operational plans were reminded to the group, while further improvements to the existing model for inter-sectoral coordination were presented. More clarifications and concrete examples of improved coordination since the creation of the ISC-TF within the secretariat were provided to the group, and the proposed improvements to the model were explained in more detail by the Deputy Secretary-General.

*Process to identify and eliminate duplication among ITU structural bodies – Pilot theme(s)*

The group reflected on its role and contribution to the efforts to improve coordination, and discussed how to contribute to Output 6.1 of the new Inter-Sectoral Objective 6 of the ITU Strategic plan 2020-23 (*Process to identify and eliminate all forms and instances of duplication of functions and activities between all ITU structural bodies, optimizing, inter alia, management methods, logistics, coordination and support by the Secretariat*).

The group discussed the idea to possibly identify some ‘pilot themes’ of inter-sectoral coordination, where all actors (including Sector advisory groups, the ITU-R, ITU-T and ITU-D Study Groups, the counsellors and the secretariat) would be involved to identify methods of improved collaboration, aiming at avoiding duplication of work, and proposing the way forward. Advice and possible recommendations could then be developed, for consideration by the Member States when preparing inputs to the World Conferences and PP-22.

The Chair of ISCG requested for ideas on pilot themes to be pursued, and following the proposal of several topics by the delegates, the group decided to focus on the topic of climate change.

The group also discussed the issue of the detailed information to be included in the Mapping Tables for the Study Groups, and reiterated TSAG’s suggestion not to include details on the Working Items, but to provide the information on the mappings at the level of Study Group questions.

The group concluded its work with the Chair of ISCG thanking all the participants –including those joining via remote participation, for their contributions and the fruitful discussion.

ANNEX: Identifying Possible Areas of Common Interest

1. **Identifying Possible Areas of Common Interest**
   1. This Information Document aims at identifying possible areas of mutual interest to the three ITU Sectors and the General Secretariat.
   2. The following areas of common interest have been identified within the secretariat and are thematic topics of the Inter-Sectoral Coordination Task Force (ISC-TF):

(subject areas of work)

* Accessibility
* Artificial Intelligence
* Bridging the Standards Gap
* Community Networks
* Emergency Telecommunications
* Environment and Smart Sustainable Cities
* Gender
* Geospatial Activities

(administrative and support themes)

* Communications & Web Editorial
* Emerging trends
* Membership / Resource Mobilization / SMEs
* Events Coordination.
  1. The following areas of common interest, which form cross-sectoral groups or task forces have also been identified:
* Internet Governance Group
* Cybersecurity / building confidence & security in ICTs
* Revenue Generation Group (Annex 2 Decision 5)
* WSIS & SDGs Task Force
* Study & Evaluation of the Translation Procedures
* ITU ICT Committee (ICTC)
* ITU Publications Policy Committee (IPPC)
* CRM Implementation Committee
* New Building Management Board
* New Building Requirements Group
* Access Control Systems / Secured Identity Mgmt.
  1. The following possible areas have been additionally identified from the mapping of PP, RA/WRC, WTSA, and WTDC Resolutions (presented in Annex 1 to this document below):
* Alternative calling procedures
* Regional presence
* Assistance to developing countries (including Least developed countries)
* Regional preparations of conferences
* Non-discriminatory access
* ITU publications
* Gender
* Strategic plan
* Dispute settlement
* Scheduling conferences
* Internet-related issues (Internet-protocol based networks, international public policy issues pertaining to the Internet and the management of Internet resources; IPv6 deployment & adoption; internationalized (multilingual) domain names)
* Sector Advisory Groups
* Bridging Standardization Gap (BSG)
* Confidence & (cyber) Security, including National incident response teams
* Disaster risk reduction and management (including relief, emergency, humanitarian assistance)
* Future Networks
* Bridging digital divide, inclusive information society
* Sector Membership (including Sector Members, Associates, Academia)
* WSIS & SDGs
* International Telecommunication Regulations (ITR), regulatory aspects
* 6 UN Languages
* Electronic working methods, e-meetings
* Accessibility for persons with disabilities and special needs
* Electromagnetic fields (EMF)
* Conformance & Interoperability
* Child Online Protection
* Climate Change
* e-health
* Illicit use of ICTs / Counterfeit / Mobile device theft / (misappropriation, misuse of) International telecommunication resources
* User/consumer protection
* Internet-of-things (IoT), Smart Cities
* Youth
* Software-defined networking (SDN)
* Connect 2030 Agenda / broadband connectivity
* Enabling environment for ICTs
* OTTs
* Financial inclusion gap
* Fellowships
* SMEs
* Appointment of Chairmen and vice-chairmen of all groups
* Innovation for digital economy and society
* Research & Technology transfer
* Charging principles, QoS
* IMT-2020/5G, mobile networks.
  1. Inter Sectoral Coordination Group (ISCG) on issues of mutual interest has developed the revised list of areas of mutual interest, which it is making available below:

1. Participation

1.1 Remote participation.

1.2 E-meetings, e-correspondence groups.

1.3 Increasing involvement of developing countries.

1.4 Participation issues, including vice-chairmen tasks.

1.5 Non-member participation.

2. Document handling

2.1 Electronic document handling.

2.2 Deadline for submission of secretariat contributions for action.

2.3 Electronic access to documents, including the application of the access policy of the documents decided by the Council.

3. Registration

3.1 Harmonization of registration.

3.2 Registration for participation in meetings, including for remote participants.

4. Improvement of the ITU webpages in official ITU languages taking into account best practices.

4.1 Language issues

5. Meeting planning.

5.1 Preparation to conferences and meetings.

5.2 Further enhancement and optimization of seminars/symposia/workshops/capacity building.

5.3 Collaboration and cooperation on events.

6. Streamlined establishment procedures of inter-Sector Rapporteur group (IRG).

6.1 Liaison statement handling of Inter-Sector Rapporteur Groups

7. Identification of technical issues with common interests.

8. Exchange of information on related study activities

8.1 Improvement of interaction between working parties and study groups of different Sectors.

9. Working methods (Resolution 1) of the three Sectors and application of best practices.

10. Sector membership.

* 1. The following issues of mutual interest to the three Sectors are also covered by current (or recently formed) Council Working Groups and Expert Groups, with corresponding resolutions indicated under specific subject areas of Annex 2:
* Financial and Human Resources
* International Internet-related Public Policy Issues
* WSIS and SDGs
* Child Online Protection
* Use of the Six Official Languages of the Union
* Decision 482 (cost recovery for satellite network filings)
* ITRs
* Strategic and Financial Plans of the Union.

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1. [↑](#footnote-ref-1)
2. Formerly known as the Inter-Sector Coordination Team on Issues of Mutual Interest (ISCT). [↑](#footnote-ref-2)