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| ITU logo | INTERNATIONAL TELECOMMUNICATION UNION  **TELECOMMUNICATION STANDARDIZATION SECTOR**  STUDY PERIOD 2017-2020 | | | | **TSAG-TD766** |
| **TSAG** |
| **Original: English** |
| **Question(s):** | | | N/A | | Geneva, 10-14 February 2020 |
| **TD** | | | | | |
| **Source:** | | | Rapporteur, TSAG RG-CPTRG | | |
| **Title:** | | | Summary of Outcomes for TSAG Rapporteur Group on Creation, Participation and Termination of Regional Groups (RG-CPTRG) | | |
| **Purpose:** | | | Information, Action | | |
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| **Keywords:** | TSAG RG-CPTRG; summary of outcomes; |
| **Abstract:** | This TD provides the summary of outcomes for TSAG Rapporteur Group on Creation, Participation and Termination of Regional Groups (RG-CPTRG). |

**Action**: TSAG invited to take note of the summary of outcomes for the Rapporteur Group on Creation, Participation and Termination of Regional Groups (RG-CPTRG) and to consider to close the Rapporteur Group on Creation, Participation and Termination of Regional Groups (RG-CPTRG).

The TSAG Rapporteur Groupon Creation, Participation and Termination of Regional Groups (RG-CPTRG) is pleased to bring to the attention of the TSAG plenary:

1. **TSAG to take note** of the summary outcomes for the Rapporteur Group on Creation, Participation and Termination of Regional Groups (RG-CPTRG).
2. **TSAG to consider** to close the Rapporteur Group on Creation, Participation and Termination of Regional Groups (RG-CPTRG).

**1 Terms of Reference of RG-CPTRG**

The Rapporteur Group on Creation, Participation and Termination of Regional Groups (RG-CPTRG) functioned under the Terms of Reference as contained in Annex A. The ToR, which can be also be found in [TD429-R2](https://www.itu.int/md/T17-TSAG-181210-TD-GEN-0429), was approved by TSAG after the first two meetings.

RG-CPTRG was formed by TSAG after discussions on contributions below:

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| *C* | *Source* | *Title* |
| [C55](https://www.itu.int/md/T17-TSAG-C-0055) | GSMA | 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 |
| [C56](https://www.itu.int/md/T17-TSAG-C-0056) | United States of America | TSAG's role in clarifying the criteria for the creation of, participation in, and termination of regional groups of Study Groups |
| [C61](https://www.itu.int/md/T17-TSAG-C-0061) | Brazil | Proposal for TSAG to establish an ad-hoc group to clarify criteria for creation, participation and termination of regional groups |

TSB presented [TD427](https://www.itu.int/md/T17-TSAG-181210-TD-GEN-0427) containing information on the governing texts on the creation and participation in ITU-T Regional groups and provided a list of Regional Groups of ITU-T SGs.

**2 Meetings of RG-CPTRG**

The Rapporteur Group met at the following TSAG meetings.

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| *Meeting Date & Time* | *Agenda* | *Report* |
| Wednesday, 12 December 2018, 14:55PM to 16:00PM | [TD428](https://www.itu.int/md/T17-TSAG-181210-TD-GEN-0428) | [TD284](https://www.itu.int/md/T17-TSAG-181210-TD-GEN-0284) |
| Thursday 13 December 2018, 14:30PM to 15:45PM |
| Wednesday, 25 September 2019, 16:15PM to 17:57PM | [TD452](https://www.itu.int/md/T17-TSAG-190923-TD-GEN-0452) | [TD453](https://www.itu.int/md/T17-TSAG-190923-TD-GEN-0453) |
| Tuesday, 11 February 2020, 9:30AM to 10:50AM | [TD644](https://www.itu.int/md/T17-TSAG-200210-TD-GEN-0644) | [TD645](https://www.itu.int/md/T17-TSAG-200210-TD-GEN-0645) |

TSB organized Adobe Connect and Interprefy for remote participation. TSB also organized captioning and interpretation to the 6 UN languages for RG-CPTRG meetings. There were no interim meetings.

**3 Chronology of activities and input documents**

After the approval of the ToR of the Rapporteur Group, it was agreed to send [TSAG-LS18](https://www.itu.int/ifa/t/2017/ls/tsag/sp16-tsag-oLS-00018.doc) to all ITU-T Study Groups with regional groups (SG2; SG3; SG5; SG11; SG12; SG13; SG17; SG20) to request the following information:

1. Year of creation of each Regional Group;
2. Number of Member States who requested and supported the creation of the Regional Group;
3. The criteria of creation for a Regional group;
4. The approved Term of Reference for the Regional Group as well as the Questions of the Study Group the Regional Group contributes to;
5. The criteria for participation in the Regional Groups and how cases, if any, of participation of Member States and Sector Members from outside the region are considered;
6. Any request for termination of an existing Regional group and criteria for termination, if any.

In reply to TSAG-LS18, RG-CPTRG received incoming liaison statements from seven (7) Study Groups through TSAG as presented below:

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| *TD* | *Source* | *Title* |
| [TD581](https://www.itu.int/md/T17-TSAG-190923-TD-GEN-0581) | ITU-T Study Group 2 | LS/r on TSAG requirement in relation to creation, participation and termination of Regional Groups (reply to TSAG-LS18) [from ITU-T SG2] |
| [TD513](https://www.itu.int/md/T17-TSAG-190923-TD-GEN-0513) | LS/r on creation, participation and termination of Regional Groups (reply to TSAG - LS18) [from ITU-T SG2] |
| [TD540](https://www.itu.int/md/T17-TSAG-190923-TD-GEN-0540) | ITU-T Study Group 3 | LS/r on creation, participation and termination of Regional Groups (reply TSAG-LS18) [from ITU-T SG3] |
| [TD562](https://www.itu.int/md/T17-TSAG-190923-TD-GEN-0562) | ITU-T Study Group 5 | LS/r on creation, participation and termination of Regional Groups (reply to TSAG-LS18) [from ITU-T SG5] |
| [TD519](https://www.itu.int/md/T17-TSAG-190923-TD-GEN-0519) | ITU-T Study Group 11 | LS/r on creation, participation and termination of Regional Groups (reply to TSAG-LS18) [from ITU-T SG11] |
| [TD541](https://www.itu.int/md/T17-TSAG-190923-TD-GEN-0541) | ITU-T Study Group 12 | LS/r on creation, participation and termination of Regional Groups (reply to TSAG-LS18) [from ITU-T SG12] |
| [TD510](https://www.itu.int/md/T17-TSAG-190923-TD-GEN-0510) | ITU-T Study Group 17 | LS/r on Regional Groups [from ITU-T SG17] |
| [TD551](https://www.itu.int/md/T17-TSAG-190923-TD-GEN-0551) | ITU-T Study Group 20 | LS/r on creation, participation and termination of Regional Groups (reply to TSAG-LS18) [from ITU-T SG20] |

At the third meeting, the Rapporteur also presented [TD621](https://www.itu.int/md/T17-TSAG-190923-TD-GEN-0621), which contains a compilation of information on the creation, participation and termination of regional groups as received from the Study Groups. The Rapporteur suggested that TD621 could be considered as the received facts from Study Groups to clarify the current criteria for the creation of, participation in, and termination of regional groups of ITU-T Study Groups to address part of the first objective of the terms of reference.

The following contributions were also received for the meeting:

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| *C* | *Source* | *Title* |
| [C79](https://www.itu.int/md/T17-TSAG-C-0079) | GSMA | Suggestions for the work of TSAG RG-CPTRG: participation of Sector Members in regional study group meetings Sept 2019 |
| [C80](https://www.itu.int/md/T17-TSAG-C-0080) | United States of America | Observations and suggestions for the work of TSAG RG-CPTRG |
| [C90](https://www.itu.int/md/T17-TSAG-C-0090) | Brazil | Legal clarifications concerning the role of TSAG in the creation of regional groups of ITU-T Study Groups, and the rights of participation of sector members, associates and academia |

ITU Legal Affairs Unit (LAU) submitted [TD577](https://www.itu.int/md/T17-TSAG-190923-TD-GEN-0577) to address clarifications concerning the role of TSAG in the creation of regional groups of ITU-T Study Groups, and the rights of participation of sector members, associates and academia.

At the final meeting of the Rapporteur Group, the liaison statement with details below was also received:

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| *TD* | *Source* | *Title* |
| [TD707](https://www.itu.int/md/T17-TSAG-200210-TD-GEN-0707) | ITU-T Study Group 12 Regional Group for Africa (SG12RG-AFR) | LS/i on draft Report RG-CPTRG on creation, participation and termination of Regional Groups |

Two contributions were received from the United States of America for the final meeting:

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| *C* | *Source* | *Title* |
| [C113](https://www.itu.int/md/T17-TSAG-C-0113) | United States of America | Suggestions to continue to advance the work of TSAG RG-CPTRG |
| [C115](https://www.itu.int/md/T17-TSAG-C-0115) | United States of America | CITEL DIAP on regional groups of ITU-T Study Groups (revisions to WTSA Resolution 54) |

**4 Summary of Discussions and Outcomes**

*Objective 1* To clarify the current criteria for the creation of, participation in, and termination of regional groups of ITU-T Study Groups and the mechanisms which govern those criteria, with guidance from the ITU, as appropriate.

The meetings discussed the current criteria for the creation of regional groups of ITU-T Study Groups and agreed that there are discrepancies and no homogeneous criteria to create a regional group across SGs.

The term “region” is undefined as some Member States are restricted to attend Regional Group meetings in what could be considered as their ITU Administrative region. Some Member States belong to more than one Regional Group in a Study Group.

While some Members expressed the need of a definition of a “region”, other Members communicated the priority of maintaining flexibility on the term “region” for each study group to create regional groups depending on the subject matter.

Some Members expressed the importance of maintaining the status quo of limiting full participation in regional group meetings to Member States and Sector Members in a region. Similarly, they emphasized the need of a regional dialogue for specific topics depending on the mandate of the study group. In contrast, other Members stressed the importance of providing access to international organizations present in the region to the regional dialogue.

From the discussions at the fourth meeting, the RG-CPTRG was informed that Study Group 3 Regional Group for Europe and the Mediterranean Basin (SG3RG-EURM) has been dormant for more than two study periods.

The meeting discussed the pathways of whether the creation of Regional Groups should be treated like Questions approved by TSAG in between WTSAs or to keep the status quo where Regional Groups are approved like Working Parties at parent Study Groups.

The ITU Legal Affairs Unit is of the view that by granting parent study groups the authority to develop and approve terms of reference and working methods of regional groups, WTSA provided parent study groups with the necessary authority to create regional groups in the areas of concern to them. This interpretation is confirmed by the long-standing practice of the parties.

The meeting agreed on a WTSA decision on the governance mechanism.

*Objective 2* To review WTSA-16 Resolution 1, WTSA-16 Resolution 2, WTSA-16 Resolution 22 and WTSA-16 Resolution 54, in order to discuss and revise, as appropriate, to clarify the criteria for the creation and termination of regional groups and to present a report to TSAG.

The meeting noted [C115](https://www.itu.int/md/T17-TSAG-C-0115) on CITEL DIAP on regional groups of ITU-T Study Groups (revisions to WTSA Resolution 54) was shared by United States of America for information to the meeting as the revisions were still under discussions at CITEL.

The meeting agreed that contributions and proposals to modifications to relevant Resolutions be discussed at WTSA-20.

*Objective 3* In the context of Article 3 of the ITU Constitution, to review WTSA-16 Resolution 1, WTSA-16 Resolution 2, WTSA-16 Resolution 22 and WTSA-16 Resolution 54, in order to discuss and revise, as appropriate, to clarify the criteria for participation in regional group meetings and to present a report to TSAG.

The ITU Legal Affairs Unit is of the view that Member States and Sector Members that do not belong to the region concerned have the right to attend the relevant regional meetings in an observer capacity.

ITU LAU was additionally requested to clarify why [TD577](https://www.itu.int/md/T17-TSAG-190923-TD-GEN-0577) omitted to provide an opinion with respect to regional intergovernmental organizations, intergovernmental organizations operating satellite systems, as well as regional and other international telecommunication standardization, financial or development organizations, as these are identified in Nos. 269B, 269C and 231 of the ITU Convention. ITU LAU explained that the provisions in question do not establish separate ITU membership categories for these organizations and that TD577 examined participatory rights only with respect to the existing possibilities for participation in the activities of the Union, as these are laid down in the basic texts: Member States (Article 2 of the Constitution), Sector Members (Article 3 of the Constitution), Associates (No. 241A of the Convention) and Academia (Resolution 169 of the Plenipotentiary Conference). Therefore, under the present framework, the right of said organizations to participate in the work of regional groups of ITU-T Study Groups depends on their affiliation to ITU-T.

**5 Conclusion**

The RG-CPTRG meeting on Tuesday, 11 February 2020 agreed that the objectives under the TOR have been satisfied and that there are no additional meetings required. The fourth meeting agreed to submit this report to TSAG as per the ToR and for the closure of RG-CPTRG.

**ANNEX A**

**Terms of Reference of TSAG Rapporteur Group on Regional Groups (RG-CPTRG)**

**Background**

Committee 5 of the 2018 ITU Plenipotentiary Conference examined proposals IAP/63A1/47, B/67/1, CAN/USA/66/2 and EUR/48A2/7, and recommended that the Plenary adopt the following recommendation:

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| Recommendation 8:  PP-18 invites the World Telecommunication Standardization 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. |

**Objectives**

1. To clarify the current criteria for the creation of, participation in, and termination of regional groups of ITU-T Study Groups and the mechanisms which govern those criteria, with guidance from the ITU, as appropriate.

2. To review WTSA-16 Resolution 1, WTSA-16 Resolution 2, WTSA-16 Resolution 22 and WTSA-16 Resolution 54, in order to discuss and revise, as appropriate, to clarify the criteria for the creation and termination of regional groups and to present a report to TSAG.

3. In the context of Article 3 of the ITU Constitution, to review WTSA-16 Resolution 1, WTSA-16 Resolution 2, WTSA-16 Resolution 22 and WTSA-16 Resolution 54, in order to discuss and revise, as appropriate, to clarify the criteria for participation in regional group meetings and to present a report to TSAG.

4. The Rapporteur Group is open to all TSAG participants. The leadership of the regional groups of Study Groups, as well as the parent Study Groups themselves, are encouraged to participate in the work of the Rapporteur Group.

5. The Rapporteur Group shall operate in English, when interpretation is unavailable.

6. The meetings of the Rapporteur Group shall be paperless and shall make use of electronic working methods, including the use of remote participation tools.

7. The Rapporteur Group shall meet during TSAG and will normally not meet at the same time as other TSAG Rapporteur Groups. If necessary, the Rapporteur Group may schedule additional meetings between TSAG meetings, which would normally be held electronically. If necessary, the Rapporteur Group may schedule face-to-face meetings, which would be co-located back-to-back with other Rapporteur Group meetings as much as possible.

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