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| ITU logo | INTERNATIONAL TELECOMMUNICATION UNION  **TELECOMMUNICATION STANDARDIZATION SECTOR**  STUDY PERIOD 2017-2020 | | | **TSAG-TD851** |
| **Interregional meeting** |
| **Original: English** |
| **Question(s):** | | | N/A | E-Meeting, 18 September 2020 |
| **TD** | | | | |
| **Source:** | | | Chairman, IRM | |
| **Title:** | | | IRM: Draft meeting report of the interregional meeting for preparation of WTSA-20 (E-Meeting, 18 September 2020; 12:30-15:00 hours CEST) | |
| **Purpose:** | | | Information | |
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| **Keywords:** | Interregional meeting (IRM); report; |
| **Abstract:** | This TD holds the draft meeting report of the interregional meeting for preparation of WTSA-20 (virtual, 18 September 2020; 12:30-15:00 hours CEST). |

**Action**: TSAG is invited to take note of this draft report.

# Opening of the meeting, IRM Chairman

The Interregional meeting (IRM) Chairman, Mr Bruce Gracie, also TSAG Chairman (Ericsson Canada), welcomed the participants to the first interregional meeting for preparation of WTSA-20, which was held on 18 September 2020. Mr Gracie was assisted by Mr Bilel Jamoussi, Chief of ITU-T Study Groups department.

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| 1.1 | Remote participation using MyMeetings, interpretation in six UN official languages and real-time captioning, were provided at this IRM. |
| 1.2 | Mr Gracie welcomed the TSB Director, Mr Chaesub Lee, H.E. Mr Anshu Prakash, Secretary  Department of Telecommunications (DoT), Ministry of Communications, Government of India, as well as representatives of the six regional telecommunications organizations, ATU, APT, CEPT, CITEL, League of Arab States  and the RCC. |
| 1.3 | Annex 1 lists the 6 contributions and 18 TDs that were considered by the meeting. |
| 1.4 | [TD855](https://www.itu.int/md/T17-TSAG-200921-TD-GEN-0855) holds the final list of participants. In total, 150 participants attended this first virtual IRM: 70 Member States, 8 Sector Members (ROAs), 17 Sector Members (SIOs), three Regional and other International Organizations (RIOs), seven Regional Organizations, one Academia, 44 ITU staff, and one elected official of the ITU. |

**2 Inauguration of the Inter-regional process**

H.E. Mr Anshu Prakash, Secretary of Department of Telecommunications (DoT), Ministry of Communications, Government of India, inaugurated this first interregional meeting ahead of WTSA-20, and provided his opening remarks, underlining the necessity of this interregional meeting as a consultation towards finalizing the agenda for WTSA-20, and to prepare for the period after the Assembly (23 February – 5 March 2021), stressing the critical role of standardization for global adoption and proliferation of new technologies. He also informed the IRM that H.E. is in touch with Mr. Lee to explore plans for addressing the situation with COVID-19 and that the plans will be communicated to all regions shortly

# Approval of the agenda

The IRM Chairman presented the draft agenda which is reflected in [TD850](https://www.itu.int/md/T17-TSAG-200921-TD-GEN-0850)-R2. The agenda was adopted with no changes.

# Information on WTSA-20 preparations

**4.1 An update for the Interregional Meeting for preparation of WTSA-20’**

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| 4.1.1 | TSB Director, Mr Chaesub Lee, presented [TD853](https://www.itu.int/md/T17-TSAG-200921-TD-GEN-0853). Mr Lee highlighted the various steps of the consultations with Member States about the proposed new dates of WTSA-20 from India as well as the status of the preparations for the WTSA-20. |
| 4.1.2 | Mr Reiner Liebler inquired about possible plans of WTSA-20 taking place in Geneva. The TSB Director mentioned that while the dates for WTSA-20 are now fixed, taking into consideration the pandemic situation, contingency plans are being studied. While the 2nd virtual consultation of ITU Council will take place in Geneva in 16-20 November 2020, several consultations are taking place in order to present the best possible scenario for WTSA-20. |

**4.2 Updates on ITU-T study groups work**

4.2.1 Mr Bilel Jamoussi, TSB, introduced [TD854](https://www.itu.int/md/T17-TSAG-200921-TD-GEN-0854) “Updates on ITU-T Study Groups work”, a presentation highlighting the status of the work of ITU-T study groups in preparation for WTSA-20 as well as of the TSAG and its Rapporteur groups.

4.2.2 The update included ITU-T Study Group's work as well as the TSAG and its Rapporteur groups, Rapporteur groups. The TSAG Rapporteur group on work program and study group structure met in August 2020 to review the restructuring principles and the macro level restructuring proposals. That group reached consensus that the process of restructuring needs to be started. However, diverging views remained at that Rapporteur Group meeting on the extent and time frame of restructuring that should occur, and that any changes to the Study Group structure being discussed are to be considered with care.

4.2.3 The Chairman of ITU-T Study Group 20, Mr Nasser Saleh Al Marzouqi, requested clarification on the statement “Keep SG17 and SG12 work in one place”. Mr Reiner Liebler, TSAG Rapporteur on Work Program and SG Structure, invited to carefully read the report of that rapporteur group meeting. The matter will be further discussed during the forthcoming TSAG meeting.

**4.3 Study group highlights for the study period 2017-2020**

4.3.1 The meeting was informed about a package of (initial) slide sets, prepared by the Chairmen of ITU-T study groups, which highlight the results of the study group during the study period 2017-2020.

4.3.2 The slide sets are available in [TD856](https://www.itu.int/md/T17-TSAG-200921-TD-GEN-0856) (SG2), [TD857](https://www.itu.int/md/T17-TSAG-200921-TD-GEN-0857) (SG3), [TD858](https://www.itu.int/md/T17-TSAG-200921-TD-GEN-0858) (SG5), [TD859](https://www.itu.int/md/T17-TSAG-200921-TD-GEN-0859) (SG9), [TD860](https://www.itu.int/md/T17-TSAG-200921-TD-GEN-0860) (SG11), [TD861](https://www.itu.int/md/T17-TSAG-200921-TD-GEN-0861) (SG12), [TD862](https://www.itu.int/md/T17-TSAG-200921-TD-GEN-0862) (SG13), [TD863](https://www.itu.int/md/T17-TSAG-200921-TD-GEN-0863) (SG15), [TD864](https://www.itu.int/md/T17-TSAG-200921-TD-GEN-0864) (SG16), [TD865](https://www.itu.int/md/T17-TSAG-200921-TD-GEN-0865) (SG17), and [TD866](https://www.itu.int/md/T17-TSAG-200921-TD-GEN-0866) (SG20).

4.3.3 Due to lack of time, those TDs were not presented, and the meeting took note of them.

**5 Objectives of the meeting and expected outcomes**

5.1 The IRM Chairman explained the objectives of this meeting. At this stage it is possible to draw some preliminary observations with respect to the development of proposals which are continuing in the various regional telecommunication organization meetings.

5.2 As further meetings will be held, there are a number of common proposals that have already been identified. The goal is, given the circumstances of the postponement of the WTSA and the arrangements for the Assembly itself, for TSAG to work diligently towards reaching consensus, if possible, on a wide range of issues, including study group restructuring as well as possible changes to the WTSA Resolutions and ITU-T A-series Recommendations.

5.3 It is necessary to identify areas of commonality, or at least areas, where there is no objection, to identify areas where more dialogue is needed.

5.4 In particular, such efforts are to be seen under the difficult circumstances, as were explained by the TSB Director, as an effort towards facilitating decision making at the Assembly.

**6 Presentations by the regions on the status of their preparation regarding work programme and study group structure, working methods and other issues**

**6.1 Asia-Pacific Telecommunity (APT)**

6.1.1 Contribution [C158](https://www.itu.int/md/T17-TSAG-C-0158) from Asia-Pacific Telecommunity was presented by Mr Yoichi Maeda, Chairman of the APT Preparatory Group for WTSA-20.

**6.2 African Telecommunications Union (ATU)**

6.2.1 Contribution [C161](https://www.itu.int/md/T17-TSAG-C-0161) from the African Telecommunications Union was presented by Mrs Meriem Slimani, ATU Coordinator for WTSA-20.

**6.3 European Conference of Postal and Telecommunications Administrations (CEPT)**

6.3.1 Contribution [C160](https://www.itu.int/md/T17-TSAG-C-0160) from the European Conference of Postal and Telecommunications Administrations (CEPT) was presented by Mr Reiner Liebler, Chairman of the CEPT Project Team ITU-T.

**6.4 Inter-American Telecommunication Commission (CITEL)**

6.4.1 Contribution [C136](https://www.itu.int/md/T17-TSAG-C-0136) from the Inter-American Telecommunication Commission (CITEL) was presented by Mr Greg Ratta, Vice-Chairperson of the PCC.I (Permanent Consultative Committee I – Telecommunications/ ICT) Working Group for the Preparation and follow-up of WTSA, WTDC and WCIT (WGCONF). Mr Santiago Reyes-Borda, Chairperson of PCC.I WGCONF, could not attend the IRM meeting and sent his apologies.

**6.5 League of Arab States/ASTeam**

6.5.1 Contribution [C162](https://www.itu.int/md/T17-TSAG-C-0162) from the League of Arab States/ASTeam was presented by Mr Abdulaziz AlFaiz, Kingdon of Saudi Arabia.

6.5.2 He clarified that streamlining and reducing text is the aim for the revision of Resolution 2 (Rev. Hammamet, 2016).

**6.6 Regional Commonwealth in the Field of Communications (RCC)**

6.6.1 Contribution [C159](https://www.itu.int/md/T17-TSAG-C-0159) from the [Regional Commonwealth in the Field of Communications](https://www.itu.int/md/meetingdoc.asp?lang=en&parent=T17-TSAG-200921-C&source=Regional%20Commonwealth%20in%20the%20Field%20of%20Communications%20%28Russian%20Federation%29) (RCC) was presented by Mr Vladimir Minkin, Russian Federation.

**7 Overview mapping table reflecting the situation in the regional organizations**

7.1 The Rapporteur of the TSAG RG-ResReview, Mr Vladimir Minkin, gave a brief introduction. Mr Martin Euchner, TSB, present [TD852](https://www.itu.int/md/T17-TSAG-200921-TD-GEN-0852), which provides a collection of activities of the regional organizations in their preparation of WTSA-20 with a mapping onto the WTSA Resolutions and ITU-T A-Series Recommendations to TSAG Rapporteur groups. TSAG started the process of preparations for WTSA-20 very early straight after the last Assembly in 2017, where TSAG developed a mapping of the Resolutions, including also the of the ITU-T A-series texts, and mapped them to the TSAG Rapporteur groups. TSAG Rapporteur Group on review of Resolutions played a key role, as it was instrumental to have started the preparatory process early by looking analysing the Resolutions. The principle of streamlining Resolutions was studied intensively, and wide consensus can be recognized now on that principle of streamlining. Furthermore, through this Rapporteur group in TSAG, communication processes were initiated with the regional organizations including also the announcement letters and for this interregional meeting, providing additional and supplementary information on this preparatory process.

7.2 TSB highlighted the wish to invite all regional organizations to make use of this information and to utilize it that as best as possible for their coordination bilaterally or multilaterally with other regional organizations.

7.3 Mr Minkin congratulated all members who provided inputs, as well to Mr Euchner for his excellent effort to coordinate. It is to be noted that the square brackets in the document refer to proposals that have not been fully agreed yet.

7.4 The meeting recognized the usefulness of that mapping table as a tool for the regional organizations to conduct their preparations for the Assembly, reflecting their interests with regards to various Resolutions and Recommendations. All regional organizations could utilize that mapping table for their efforts to reach consensus of the matters prior to the Assembly as much as this would be possible.

7.5 The meeting agreed also to add, on the right side of the table, a new column, which indicates the areas of commonalities, or similar categories, such as streamlining text, modifications, study groups restructuring, new proposals, etc. It was noted that the table already provides a mapping to the WTSA Committees.

7.6 The League of Arab States pointed out that the material in TD852 does not fully reflect the situation in LAS (SUP Res.35 is missing, as are some other elements).

7.7 The meeting invited the regional organizations to check this mapping table for any necessary amendments and to inform TSB accordingly.

7.8 The meeting highlighted the necessity to update the mapping table during the forthcoming TSAG meeting, and to try to cluster the proposals. The meeting agreed to see a liaison statement prepared to be sent to all regional organizations.

7.9 TSB will put the mapping table online as a living document, accessible from the IRM web page, and invited the regions to provide inputs and corrections.

7.10 The meeting agreed:

a) to focus on progressing the ITU-T A-series texts (ITU-T A.1, A.7, and A.8) in TSAG prior to WTSA-20 with the aim to reach consensus;

b) to organize interim TSAG Rapporteur Group e-meetings until the final TSAG meeting in January 2021 to progress any matters further, and

c) to organize additional interregional meetings prior to WTSA-20, all with the objective, to reach maximum consensus on as many areas as possible.

7.11 As part of the review process of Resolutions, Members were also invited to consider which operational provisions (resolves, instructs etc) in the Resolutions are still necessary to be maintained, and which provisions could be suppressed/removed because they have fulfilled their purpose, and/or are no longer necessary.

7.12 Members expressed an interest to know the leadership of WTSA-20. TSB informed that India as the host of WTSA-20 will provide the Chairman of WTSA-20. Proposals for the Vice Chairmen of WTSA-20 should be provided by the regional organizations, and members to propose the WTSA-20 Committee Chairmen; all such proposals should be sent to the TSB Director.

7.13 Members expressed interest to identify whether experts or regional organizations would be willing to take a lead in coordinating with other organizations with respect to various Resolutions, at least where coordination is possible.

**8 Discussion of areas of commonality, and areas where further discussion is required**

8.1 TD852 is an excellent starting point where we can reflect the areas of commonalities and areas where further work may be needed.

8.2 The meeting saw the proposed suppression of Resolution 35 (Rev, Hammamet, 2016) agreeable, at least without objections, and to rather streamline to Resolution 208 (Dubai, 2018) on the same subject.

8.3 In terms of ITU-T restricting of study groups, common sense is that SG15 is to remain as is.

**9 Dates of upcoming regional preparatory meetings**

9.1 The meeting took note of [TD867](https://www.itu.int/md/T17-TSAG-200921-TD-GEN-0867) “WTSA-20 preparations - An update for the Interregional Meeting for Preparation of WTSA-20”, which could not be presented due to lack of time.

9.2 Regional organizations were invited to inform TSB of any updates of their meeting calendars.

# Proposed dates of upcoming TSAG Rapporteur Group meetings and TSAG

The proposed dates for the next TSAG are

* 6th TSAG: virtual, 21 – 25 September 2020.
* TSAG RG-ResReview e-meeting, 4 December 2020: 12:00-15:00 hours Geneva time.
* 7th TSAG: (virtual) 11 - 15 January 2021 (tbc).

# Proposed date for the next interregional meeting

11.1 The meeting discussed the proposal for a second interregional meeting for preparation of WTSA-20 for one day (tbc) on 8 January 2021.

11.2 Several points were raised on the possible dates of the next IRM:

The League of Arab States requested to avoid TSAG and TSAG Rapporteur group e-meetings on Fridays and proposed the 2nd IRM to be on the 7 January 2021.  
The 7th of January is the Orthodox Christmas and it should not be used for the 2nd IRM.  
Study Groups 12 and 17 will have plenary meetings on 6 and 7 January 2017.  
TSB offered to consider the 8 or 9 January 2021 as possibilities.

11.3 It was agreed that the matter will be discussed at the TSAG Management Team meeting on 20 September 2020.

# 12 Contact sheet for the regional focal points and coordinators for WTSA-20

# 12.1 The meeting took note of the [online contact sheet for the regional focal points and coordinators for WTSA-20](https://extranet.itu.int/sites/itu-t/wtsa-20/prepmeet/Lists/ContactSheet/DefViewContacts.aspx?p%255FResolution=Res%2E76%3A%20Studies%20related%20to%20conformance%20and%20interoperability%20testing%2C%20assistance%20to%20developing%20countries%2C%20and%20a%20possible%20future%20ITU%20Mark%20programme&p%255FTitle=TAYAL&p%255FFirstName=Ashish&SortField=Resolution%2CResolution&SortDir=Asc%2CAsc&PageFirstRow=1&View=%7B91BEB76F%2D43CF%2D4243%2DB1E7%2D0E19ECBC0603%7D), which compiled received inputs from APT, ATU, CEPT, and CITEL, for their regional focal points and coordinators for WTSA-20, as well as the TSB Focal Points, for the WTSA Resolutions, and ITU-T A-series texts.

# 12.2 The meeting invited RCC and the Leagues of Arab States to provide TSB with their contact/focal points.

# 13 Conclusions

13.1 The IRM Chairman concluded that there is an attempt to seek focal points for the review of Resolutions and A series recommendations from the regions.

13.2 This information would need to be imparted as soon as possible.

13.3 The following step would be to proceed with the of TD852 as it was discussed.

# 14 Any other business

No other businesses were raised.

# 15 Closure of the meeting

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| 15.1 | The IRM Chairman thanked all participants for the successful conclusion of this first interregional meeting, in particular all the representatives of the Regional Organizations, the TSB Director, Mr Chaesub Lee, Mr Bilel Jamoussi, Mr Martin Euchner, all TSB staff, the delegates, as well as the interpreters and the captioners for their support and work. |
| 15.2 | The interregional meeting was closed on 18 September 2020 at 15:05 hours. |

**Annex 1 – List of documents**

All contributions and documents of the interregional meeting for preparation of WTSA-20 are available at <https://www.itu.int/en/ITU-T/wtsa20/irc>

The Contributions are available at <https://www.itu.int/md/T17-TSAG-200921-C>

The TDs are available at <https://www.itu.int/md/T17-TSAG-200921-TD>

**List of Contributions**

| **Contribution #, Source Title** |
| --- |
| [C136](https://www.itu.int/md/T17-TSAG-C-0136): Inter-American Telecommunication Commission (CITEL)  IRM: Status of preparations WTSA-20 |
| [C158](https://www.itu.int/md/T17-TSAG-C-0158): Asia-Pacific Telecommunity (Thailand)  IRM: Preparation of APT for WTSA-20 |
| [C159](https://www.itu.int/md/T17-TSAG-C-0159): Regional Commonwealth in the Field of Communications (Russian Federation)  IRM: Status of RCC preparations for WTSA-20 |
| [C160](https://www.itu.int/md/T17-TSAG-C-0160): European Conference of Postal and Telecommunications Administrations (Denmark)  IRM European Preparations for WTSA-20 |
| [C161](https://www.itu.int/md/T17-TSAG-C-0161): African Telecommunications Union (Kenya)  IRM: Update on ATU preparation for the ITU WTSA-20 |
| [C162](https://www.itu.int/md/T17-TSAG-C-0162): Arab Standardization Team (AST)  IRM: update on AST preparation for the ITU WTSA-20 |

# List of Temporary Documents

| **TD#, Source, Title** |
| --- |
| [TD850](https://www.itu.int/md/T17-TSAG-200921-TD-GEN-0850)-R2: Chairman, IRM  IRM: draft agenda of Interregional meeting for preparation WTSA-20, Geneva, 18 September 2020; 12:30-15:00 hours CEST |
| [TD851](https://www.itu.int/md/T17-TSAG-200921-TD-GEN-0851): Chairman, IRM  IRM: draft report of Interregional meeting for preparation WTSA-20, Geneva, 18 September 2020 |
| [TD852](https://www.itu.int/md/T17-TSAG-200921-TD-GEN-0852): Rapporteur, RG-ResReview  IRM: Collection of activities of the regional organizations in their preparation of WTSA-20 with a mapping onto the WTSA Resolutions and ITU-T A-Series Recommendations to TSAG Rapporteur groups |
| [TD853](https://www.itu.int/md/T17-TSAG-200921-TD-GEN-0853): TSB  IRM: WTSA-20 preparations - An update for the Interregional Meeting for Preparation of WTSA-20 |
| [TD854](https://www.itu.int/md/T17-TSAG-200921-TD-GEN-0854): TSB  IRM: WTSA-20 - Updates on ITU-T Study Groups work |
| [TD855](https://www.itu.int/md/T17-TSAG-200921-TD-GEN-0855): TSB  IRM: Final list of participants |
| [TD856](https://www.itu.int/md/T17-TSAG-200921-TD-GEN-0856): Chairman, ITU-T SG2  IRM: SG2 highlights SP2017-2020 |
| [TD857](https://www.itu.int/md/T17-TSAG-200921-TD-GEN-0857): Chairman, ITU-T SG3  IRM: SG3 highlights SP2017-2020 |
| [TD858](https://www.itu.int/md/T17-TSAG-200921-TD-GEN-0858): Chairman, ITU-T SG5  IRM: SG5 highlights SP2017-2020 |
| [TD859](https://www.itu.int/md/T17-TSAG-200921-TD-GEN-0859): Chairman, ITU-T SG9  IRM: SG9 highlights SP2017-2020 |
| [TD860](https://www.itu.int/md/T17-TSAG-200921-TD-GEN-0860): Chairman, ITU-T SG11  SG11 highlights SP2017-2020 |
| [TD861](https://www.itu.int/md/T17-TSAG-200921-TD-GEN-0861): Chairman, ITU-T SG12  IRM: SG12 highlights SP2017-2020 |
| [TD862](https://www.itu.int/md/T17-TSAG-200921-TD-GEN-0862): Chairman, ITU-T SG13  IRM: SG13 highlights SP2017-2020 |
| [TD863](https://www.itu.int/md/T17-TSAG-200921-TD-GEN-0863): Chairman, ITU-T SG15  IRM: SG15 highlights SP2017-2020 |
| [TD864](https://www.itu.int/md/T17-TSAG-200921-TD-GEN-0864): Chairman, ITU-T SG16  IRM: SG16 highlights SP2017-2020 |
| [TD865](https://www.itu.int/md/T17-TSAG-200921-TD-GEN-0865): Chairman, ITU-T SG17  IRM: SG17 highlights SP2017-2020 |
| [TD866](https://www.itu.int/md/T17-TSAG-200921-TD-GEN-0866): Chairman, ITU-T SG20  IRM: SG20 highlights SP2017-2020 |
| [TD867](https://www.itu.int/md/T17-TSAG-200921-TD-GEN-0867): TSB  IRM: WTSA-20 updates of the regional preparations |

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