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| ITU logo | INTERNATIONAL TELECOMMUNICATION UNION**TELECOMMUNICATION STANDARDIZATION SECTOR**STUDY PERIOD 2017-2020 | TSAG-TD896 |
| **TSAG** |
| **Original: English** |
| **Question(s):** | N/A | E-Meeting, 21-25 September 2020 |
| **TD(Ref.:** [SG17-LS269](http://handle.itu.int/11.1002/ls/sp16-sg17-oLS-00269.docx)) |
| **Source:** | ITU-T Study Group 17 |
| **Title:** | LS/r on increasing efficiency of security work in ITU-T (reply to TSAG-LS27) [from ITU-T SG17] |
| **Purpose:** | Action |
| **LIAISON STATEMENT** |
| **For action to:** | TSAG |
| **For comment to:** | - |
| **For information to:** | ITU-T SG11, SG13, SG20 |
| **Approval:** | ITU-T Study Group 17 meeting (Virtual, 3 September 2020) |
| **Deadline:** | - |
| **Contact:** | Heung-Youl YoumITU-T SG17 chairman | Tel: +82 41 530 1328E-mail: hyyoum@sch.ac.kr  |

This liaison answers [TSAG-LS27](https://www.itu.int/ifa/t/2017/ls/tsag/sp16-tsag-oLS-00027.zip).

A new liaison statement has been received from SG17.

This liaison statement follows and the original file can be downloaded from the ITU ftp server at <http://handle.itu.int/11.1002/ls/sp16-sg17-oLS-00269.docx>.

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| ITU logo | INTERNATIONAL TELECOMMUNICATION UNION**TELECOMMUNICATIONSTANDARDIZATION SECTOR**STUDY PERIOD 2017-2020 | SG17-LS269 |
| **STUDY GROUP 17** |
| **Original: English** |
| **Question(s):** | All/17 | Virtual, 24 August - 3 September 2020 |
| **(Ref.:** [**SG17-TD3391R1**](https://www.itu.int/md/T17-SG17-200824-TD-PLEN-3391/en)**)** |
| **Source:** | ITU-T Study Group 17 |
| **Title:** | LS/r on increasing efficiency of security work in ITU-T (reply to TSAG-LS27) |
| **Purpose:** | Action |
| **LIAISON STATEMENT** |
| **For action to:** | TSAG |
| **For comment to:** | - |
| **For information to:** | ITU-T Study Group 11, Study Group 13, Study Group 20 |
| **Approval:** | ITU-T Study Group 17 meeting (Virtual, 3 September 2020) |
| **Deadline:** | - |
| **Contact:** | Heung-Youl YoumITU-T SG17 chairman | Tel: +82 41 530 1328E-mail: hyyoum@sch.ac.kr |

As part of the SG17 process for WTSA-20 preparation, at its 24 August – 3 September 2020 study group meeting, SG17 discussed two Contributions ([C869](http://www.itu.int/md/meetingdoc.asp?lang=en&parent=T17-SG17-C-0869) and [C957](http://www.itu.int/md/meetingdoc.asp?lang=en&parent=T17-SG17-C-0957), augmented by [TD3240](http://www.itu.int/md/meetingdoc.asp?lang=en&parent=T17-SG17-200824-TD-PLEN-3240)), which created the base and the agreement to send to TSAG SG17’s views on security related work carried out by other ITU-T Study Groups (SGs).

SG17 is responsible for security standardization but due to the crosscutting aspects of security, all ITU-T study groups can consider, as appropriate, security aspects on their standardization work. This arrangement, which is intended for specific work items, has worked well for many years.

This has also resulted in an increasing number of Questions in other SGs with specific or closely related focus on security standardization, and as such, the ITU-T work on security has become increasingly fragmented between SG17 (with the Lead study group for security) and SG11, SG13 and SG20. This in turn may cause a further decrease in delegates’ participation and degrading industry Return on Investment (RoI).

It is worth noting that in the case of “Quantum-base security” having this work done in two SGs, i.e., SG13 and SG17, causes near-term and long-term existential problems to the Sector members and Associates. We also observe that this increases the risk of having potential misalignments with other SDOs and makes both effective coordination and collaboration more difficult.

In the case of security for Smart Cities, SG17 identifies gaps and agrees to request TSAG to consider establishing the ITU-T level strategy that should help the demarcation of security related work between two Questions in SG17 and Q6/20. In addition, SG17 at its August/September meeting recognized the need to create clear guidance from TSAG to establish such an ITU-T strategy.

**Proposal**

With rationale above, we wish to initiate discussion in TSAG regarding the potential transferring to SG17 of security related Questions, such as:

* SG11 efforts related to Combating counterfeit and stolen telecommunication/ICT devices (Q15/11 or M/11),
* The new proposed SG11 question on Combating counterfeit or tampered telecommunication/ICT software (N/11),
* SG13 studies on Trustworthy and quantum enhanced networking and services (Q16/13 or Q.M/13), and
* SG20 studies on Security, privacy, trust and identification for IoT and smart cities and communities (Q6/20).

By moving security related Questions into SG17 in the forthcoming Study Period, we would realize the following principles for the ITU-T and ITU as a whole:

* Strengthen the concept of lead study group,
* Strengthen the centre of expertise and make the investment of resources by Sector Members more cost effective,
* A better workload rebalancing allowing other SGs to concentrate on fruitful areas and have better alignment with peer SDOs, and a reduction in the level of coordination required between SGs to ensure awareness,
* Minimizing the fragmentation of key security principles that underpin the ITU’s key role in developing security standards,
* Less duplication of effort within the security community, resulting in less wasted effort, a more efficient and effective standardization process, and a better RoI and conditions for the industry, and ultimately a higher quality Recommendations.

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