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| ITU logo | INTERNATIONAL TELECOMMUNICATION UNION  **TELECOMMUNICATION STANDARDIZATION SECTOR**  STUDY PERIOD 2017-2020 | | | TSAG-TD932R1 | |
| **TSAG** | |
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| **Source:** | | | TSB | | |
| **Title:** | | | ITU-T work continuity plan until WTSA in 2022 and related FAQ | | |
| **Purpose:** | | | Information | | |
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| **Keywords:** | WTSA; COVID; continuity plan; Q&A; |
| **Abstract:** | Following the agreement at the Second Virtual Consultation of Councillors (VCC-2) (online, November 2020) proposing to postpone WTSA to 1-9 March 2022 preceded by GSS on 28 February 2022, this document provides guiding points and references on the process to ensure smooth continuity of the ITU-T work. This text is based on document VC2/3-E provided at the VCC-2.  New Annex A to this document contains answers to the most frequent questions received by the secretariat concerning the postponement of WTSA till 2022.  TSAG is asked to note this document. |

Considering:

1. The agreement at the Second Virtual Consultation of Councillors (VCC-2) to postpone WTSA from 1 to 9 March 2022 preceded by GSS on 28 February 2022,
2. That Member States of ITU Council have supported rescheduling the next WTSA-20 from 1 March to 9 March 2022 preceded by the Global Standards Symposium on 28 February 2022 and subject to the restoration of normal work and travel conditions in India and in other Member States **[DM-20/1022](https://www.itu.int/md/S20-DM-CIR-01022/en)**.
3. Pursuant to No. 46 of the ITU Convention, all Member States of ITU are invited to inform the Secretary General of their concurrence with the change of dates of WTSA-20. Deadline for Member States to reply to the consultation is 1 February 2021, 23:59 hours, Geneva time **[Circular letter CL-20/51](https://www.itu.int/md/S20-SG-CIR-0051/en)**. ​

To ensure the continuity and stability of the ITU-T Sector, the following guiding points and references were prepared by the Secretariat for consideration by Membership:

1. Leadership (SG/TSAG/SCV Chairmen and Vice Chairmen)
   1. The **current management teams** (SG, TSAG, SCV, Chairmen and Vice Chairmen) **continue** until the next WTSA 1-9 March 2022.
      1. WTSA Resolution 35 refers to terms in office in between two consecutive WTSAs (but not in terms of the number of years in office) for instance resolve 4) "that the term of office for both chairmen and vice-chairmen should not exceed two terms of office between consecutive assemblies;"
   2. If a Chairman or Vice Chairman is no **longer available** to continue until the next WTSA, then CV 244 would be invoked:
      1. CV 244: "3 If, in the interval between two assemblies or conferences of the Sector concerned, a study group Chairman is unable to carry out his duties and only one Vice Chairman has been appointed, then that Vice-Chairman shall take the Chairman's place. In the case of a study group for which more than one Vice-Chairman has been appointed, the study group at its next meeting shall elect a new Chairman from among those Vice-Chairmen and, if necessary, a new Vice-Chairman from among the members of the study group. It shall likewise elect a new Vice Chairman if one of the Vice-Chairmen is unable to carry out his duties during that period."
   3. If needed, **working party chairs** are appointed as per WTSA-16 Resolution 1.
   4. New leadership proposals received so far for WTSA-20 will continue to be recorded on the WTSA website and could be revised at any time by the nominating Member State or Sector Member up to the new nomination deadline which will be published in due course.
2. New/Revised Question Texts:
   1. All Study Groups have prepared their Part I and Part II Reports to WTSA and as such have revised the text of their Questions.
   2. WTSA **Resolution 1 Section 7.2** "Approval of new or revised Questions between WTSAs" would be **followed** using the **text of the Questions** now prepared in Part II of the SG reports to WTSA. These texts are submitted as **TDs for this TSAG meeting** by the respective SG Chairs.
   3. Renumbering the Questions is the usual practice from one study period to another. However, since the study period remains the same, the **Questions will not be renumbered**. In particular, the number of a Question that was previously removed (deletion or merger) should not be reused (e.g. to identify a new proposed Question) within the same study period.
      1. This is to avoid confusion as well as issues with the IT infrastructure (e.g. IFA, mailing lists, SharePoint RGM and collaboration sites)
   4. With the extension of this study period until March 2022, Study Groups will continue their work and may update as needed the draft Part I and II of their Reports to WTSA before the last TSAG meeting (January 2022) preceding WTSA.
3. Study group mandate updates (which, as per TSAG instructions, do not concern inter-SG transfer of mandate) being prepared by the Study groups and found in Annex 2 of Part I of the SG reports to WTSA can be put into force by TSAG with its current delegation of power from WTSA-16. The intra-SG updates are separated from and do not pre-judge outcomes of discussions on SG structure (see next item).
   1. See WTSA Resolution 22 resolve 1.c) "restructure and establish ITU-T study groups, taking into account the needs of the ITU-T membership and in response to changes in the telecommunication marketplace, and assign chairmen and vice-chairmen to act until the next WTSA in accordance with Resolution 35 (Rev. Hammamet, 2016) of this assembly;"
4. Study Group structure discussions and decisions would be considered at the next WTSA.
5. Updates to the working methods
   1. TSAG is competent to review and revise the A-Series of Recommendations as per WTSA Resolution 22 resolve 1.b) "to assign to TSAG the following specific matters within its competence between this assembly and the next assembly to act in the following areas in consultation with the Director of TSB, as appropriate: assume responsibility, including development and submission for approval under appropriate procedures, for the ITU-T A-series Recommendations (Organization of the work of ITU-T);"
6. ADD/MOD/SUP to WTSA Resolutions would have to be considered at the next WTSA:
   1. Contributions received so far for WTSA will be kept on the corresponding WTSA website and could be revised and updated up to the new deadline of Contributions based on the new WTSA dates.
   2. Membership is invited to continue finding consensus on WTSA Resolutions through TSAG and Inter-regional meetings in preparation for the next WTSA.
7. Once WTSA is held in March 2022, the following WTSA would be planned for 2024, resuming the normal cycle.

Annex A  
WTSA-20 frequently asked questions (FAQ)

1. **What are the dates of WTSA and GSS?**

* The proposed dates agreed at VCC-2 are GSS on 28 February 2022 and WTSA on 1-9 March 2022.

1. **What is the location of WTSA?**

* The proposed location is Hyderabad, India.

1. **What is the status of the dates and location of WTSA?**

* The VCC-2 meeting agreed that postponing WTSA-20 in 2022 would be preferable. Accordingly, a consultation of Member States will be undertaken, see item b). Also, please see the *Outcomes of discussions of the second virtual consultation of councilors* in [DT1/Rev4](https://www.itu.int/md/S20-CLVC2-201116-TD-0001/en).
* Member States of ITU Council have supported rescheduling the next WTSA-20 from 1 March to 9 March 2022 preceded by the Global Standards Symposium on 28 February 2022 and subject to the restoration of normal work and travel conditions in India and in other Member States ***[DM-20/1022](https://www.itu.int/md/S20-DM-CIR-01022/en)***.
* Pursuant to No. 46 of the ITU Convention, all Member States of ITU are invited to inform the Secretary General of their concurrence with the change of dates of WTSA-20. Deadline for Member States to reply to the consultation is 1 February 2021, 23:59 hours, Geneva time ***[Circular letter CL-20/51](https://www.itu.int/md/S20-SG-CIR-0051/en)***
* It is expected that by early February 2021 these two Consultations will be completed and a final decision of the new dates of WTSA is made.

1. **Why was the duration of WTSA reduced from the initial plan of nine days to seven days?**

* During the VCC-2 meeting, some MS proposed to shorten the duration of WTSA since TSAG would have taken care of several issues, e.g. agreement on modifications to selected A-series Recommendations, and built consensus during its meetings in 2021 and 2022.

1. **What will be the agenda of WTSA?**

* [C20/INF/23](https://www.itu.int/md/S20-CL-INF-0023/en) (DOCX) provides additional information about WTSA and its normal agenda and structure. WTSA structure and agenda in 2022 will be as usual and as defined in Resolution 1.

1. **What are the key milestones and timeline leading to WTSA in 2022?**

* [C20/INF/23](https://www.itu.int/md/S20-CL-INF-0023/en) (PDF) shows the roadmap leading to WTSA.

1. **What is the continuity plan for the work of ITU-T given the postponement of WTSA to 2022?**

* [VC-2/3](https://www.itu.int/md/S20-CLVC2-C-0003/en) provides guidance on the continuity plan.

1. **What happens if COVID-19 persist and travel would not be possible in 2022?**

* The agreed way forward for WTSA at VCC-2 included the possibility of discussion on WTSA plans at Council 2021 meeting if COVID-19 persists.

1. **When will the invitations to WTSA be revised?**

* Once the two consultations are completed and the new dates have a final decision, new invitations will be issued by the Secretary General.

1. **Will Circular 202 be amended and when?**

* Once the two consultations are completed and the new dates have a final decision, a corrigendum to Circular 202 will be issued with revised deadlines for the nomination of Chairmen and Vice Chairmen of SGs, TSAG, and the SCV.
* Nominations received so far are posted on the WTSA-20 website and will remain there until WTSA is held unless revised by the nominating Member State or Sector Member.

1. **Will the meeting schedule in 2021 be revised?**

* Yes, TSB is revising the 2021 Calendar in Consultation with the SGs based on the guidance agreed at VCC-2. A TSAG RG meeting schedule will also be developed. A revised calendar will be posted to the TSAG meeting in January 2021.

1. **What are the dates of TSAG in 2021 and 2022?**

* 11-18 January 2021
* 25 – 29 October 2021
* 10 – 14 January 2022

1. **Once WTSA is held in 2022, when will be the subsequent WTSA?**

* WTSA would go back to its initial 4-year cycle and would be held in Q4 2024.
* WTSA is normally held every 4 years, and one major ITU conference and assembly is normally held each year. COVID-19 impacted the normal scheduling of WTSA-20 and it is now moved to 2022.

1. **Will meetings of ITU-T Study Groups and TSAG in 2021 be virtual?**

* It is most likely that at least in the first half of 2021, meetings will be virtual.

1. **What can TSAG decide on vs WTSA?**

* Documents [C20/INF/23](https://www.itu.int/md/S20-CL-INF-0023/en) and [VC-2/3](https://www.itu.int/md/S20-CLVC2-C-0003/en) identify the areas where TSAG is already authorized to act.
* CS/Art.18 and CS/Art.19 governs the duties of WTSA; duties and responsibilities of WTSA are governed in CV/Art.13; duties and responsibilities of TSAG are governed in CV/Art.14A; WTSA-16 Resolution 1 Section 4, WTSA-16 Resolution 22, and WTSA-16 Resolution 45.

1. **If WTSA is held in 2022, will it be called WTSA-22, or will it continue to be called WTSA‑20?**

* WTSA-20 continues to be the brand name for the event.

1. **What will happen to the regional proposals to WTSA already submitted for posting?**

* Proposals received so far will be maintained on the WTSA website and could be further revised by the submitter before the new deadline for contributions to be announce once the final decision about the dates of WTSA is reached.

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