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| World Telecommunication Standardization Assembly (WTSA-20) Geneva, 1-9 March 2022 |  |
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| PLENARY MEETING | Addendum 15 to Document 39-E |
|  | **24 March 2021** |
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| Member States of the Inter-American Telecommunication Commission (CITEL) | |
| Proposed modification of Resolution 54 | |
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| **Abstract:** | In accordance with instructions from the 2018 Plenipotentiary Conference, CITEL proposes to revise WTSA Resolution 54 (Rev. Hammamet, 2016) in order to provide the necessary clarity regarding the creation of regional groups of ITU-T Study Groups, the appropriate role of TSAG, and the nature of participation rights. |

Introduction

Through the approval of Recommendation 8 from Committee 5, the 2018 ITU Plenipotentiary Conference invited “… 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.”

Subsequently, TSAG convened the Rapporteur Group on the Creation, Participation, and Termination of Regional Groups (RG-CPTRG), which examined the pertinent issues, including a legal opinion from the ITU Legal Affairs Unit. Among its conclusions, the RG-CPTRG highlighted the need for revisions to the relevant Resolutions, particularly in terms of the creation of regional groups, the role of TSAG, and the matter of participation rights.

Proposal

Modify Resolution 54 to detail the process for the creation of regional groups of ITU-T study groups, clarify TSAG’s oversight role, and ensure participation rights in line with the ITU Constitution and Convention.

MOD IAP/39A15/1

RESOLUTION 54 (Rev. Geneva, 2022)

Creation of, and assistance to, regional groups

(Florianópolis, 2004; Johannesburg, 2008; Dubai, 2012; Hammamet 2016;Geneva, 2022)

The World Telecommunication Standardization Assembly (Geneva, 2022),

considering

*a)* that Article 14 of the ITU Convention authorizes the creation of study groups with a view to standardizing telecommunications on a worldwide basis;

*b)* that Article 17 of the ITU Constitution states that "the functions of the Telecommunication Standardization Sector shall be, bearing in mind the particular concerns of the developing countries, to fulfil the purposes of the Union relating to telecommunication standardization ...";

*c)* that Resolution 58 (Rev. Busan, 2014) of the Plenipotentiary Conference resolves that the ITU “should continue developing stronger relations with regional telecommunication organizations, including the organization of six ITU regional preparatory meetings for plenipotentiary conferences, as well as other Sector conferences and assembles as necessary";

*d)* that Resolution 123 (Rev. Dubai, 2018) of the Plenipotentiary Conference instructs the Secretary-General and the Directors of the three Bureaux to work closely with each other in pursuing initiatives that assist in bridging the standardization gap between developing[[1]](#footnote-1)1 and developed countries, and to further collaborate with relevant regional organizations and support their work in this area;

*e)* that Resolution 191 (Rev. Dubai, 2018) of the Plenipotentiary Conference recognizes that the basic principle of cooperation and collaboration among the Sectors is to avoid duplication of the Sectors' activities and to ensure that work is carried out efficiently and effectively;

*f)* the following outcome for the ITU Telecommunication Standardization Sector (ITU‑T) in the strategic plan for the Union for 2020-2023, adopted in Resolution 71 (Rev. Dubai, 2018) of the Plenipotentiary Conference, focused on the promotion of active participation of membership, in particular developing countries, in the definition and adoption of non-discriminatory international standards with a view to bridging the standardization gap:

– increased participation in the ITU‑T standardization process, including attendance of meetings, submission of contributions, taking leadership positions and hosting of meetings/workshops, especially from developing countries;

*g)* that the work of certain study groups, particularly in relation to, among other things, tariff and accounting principles, international telecommunication/information and communication technology (ICT) economic and policy issues, next-generation networks (NGN), the Internet of things (IoT) and future networks (FN), security, quality, mobility and multimedia, continues to be of considerable strategic significance for developing countries,

recognizing

*a)* that Article 43 of the Constitution (No. 194) states that "Member States reserve the right to convene regional conferences, to make regional arrangements and to form regional organizations, for the purpose of settling telecommunication questions which are susceptible of being treated on a regional basis ...";

*b)* that Article 14A of the ITU Convention and Resolution 1 (Rev.Geneva, 2022) both affirm the principal duties of the Telecommunication Standardization Advisory Group (TSAG) to “review priorities, programmes, operations, financial matters and strategies for activities in the Telecommunication Standardization Sector,” “provide guidelines for the work of study groups,” and “recommend measures, inter alia, to foster cooperation and coordination with other relevant bodies;”

*c)* that Resolution 1 (Rev.Geneva, 2022) establishes the rules of procedure of the Telecommunication Standardization Sector;

*d)* that Resolution 22 (Rev. Hammamet, 2016) authorizes TSAG to act between world telecommunication standardization assemblies and assigns TSAG responsibility for the ITU-T A-series Recommendations (Organization of the work of ITU-T);

*e)* the growing level of participation and involvement of developing countries in all the ITU‑T study groups;

*f)* that regional groups have been established within ITU‑T Study Groups 2, 3, 5, 11, 12, 13, 17, and 20;

*g)* that meetings of the above-mentioned regional groups of ITU‑T study groups are held by ITU and can be supported by regional organizations and/or regional standardization bodies;

*h)* the satisfactory results obtained by the regional approach within the framework of the activities of the parent study groups;

*i)* that the activities of most of these regional groups have become increasingly important, and encompass a growing number of issues,

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noting

*a)* the need to increase the participation of developing countries in the work of study groups, with a view to ensuring that their specific needs and concerns, within the mandate of ITU‑T and its study groups, are better taken into account;

*b)* the need to improve and strengthen the organization and working methods of the ITU‑T study groups in the interests of enhancing the participation of developing countries, to increase the efficiency and effectiveness of international standardization work and to improve synergies with other ITU Sectors;

*c)* the importance of having appropriate consultative frameworks for the formulation and study of Questions, the preparation of contributions and capacity building;

*d)* the need for developing countries to be more present and more active within ITU‑T's standardization forums;

*e)* the need to encourage more inclusive participation in the work of ITU‑T, e.g. by academia and experts working in the field of international standardization of telecommunications/ICT, particularly from developing countries;

*f)* the budgetary limitations, especially in developing-country institutions, for attendance at ITU‑T events of specific interest to them,

bearing in mind

that the six principal regional telecommunication organizations, namely the Asia-Pacific Telecommunity (APT), the European Conference of Postal and Telecommunications Administrations (CEPT), the Inter-American Telecommunications Commission (CITEL), the African Telecommunications Union (ATU), the Council of Arab Ministers of Telecommunication and Information represented by the Secretariat-General of the League of Arab States (LAS) and the Regional Commonwealth in the field of Communications (RCC), seek close cooperation with the Union, as delineated in Resolution 58 (Rev. Busan 2014),

taking into consideration

*a)* the experiences and lessons learned by study groups and their regional groups, regarding the operational as well as organizational set-up and working methods, consistent with the ITU T rules of procedure in Resolution 1 (Rev.Geneva, 2022), which could serve to expand and improve the level of developing-country participation in international standardization activities and contribute to achieving the objectives of Resolution 123 (Rev. Dubai, 2018);

*b)* the specific process for approving Recommendations foreseen for the regional groups of Study Group 3 in clause 9.2.1 of Resolution 1 (Rev. Geneva, 2022) of this assembly,

recognizing further

*a)* that a common and coordinated approach in regard to international standardization could serve to foster the promotion of standardization activities in developing countries;

*b)* that joint meetings of regional groups of different ITU‑T study groups, in particular if concatenated with a regional workshop and/or a meeting of a regional organization and/or regional standardization body, could encourage the participation of developing countries in these meetings and increase the effectiveness of such joint meetings;

*c)* that, in developing countries, a few standardization experts are usually responsible for handling numerous standardization areas within their administrations, including issues that concern Questions under study simultaneously by a number of ITU‑T study groups,

resolves

1 that ITU-T study groups can, on a case-by-case basis, pursue the creation of regional groups of ITU‑T study groups, after taking into consideration the financial, operational and organizational implications for ITU-T, as well as the contribution of those regional groups in initiatives that assist in bridging the standardization gap;

2 that ITU-T study groups develop and submit terms of reference and working methods for these regional groups to TSAG for review, coordination, and approval;

3 that the composition of regional groups of ITU-T study groups is consistent with, and supported by, considering *c)* and the regional telecommunications organizations identified under bearing in mind of this resolution;

4 that representatives of Member States and Sector Members who belong to the region concerned may fully participate in regional groups of ITU-T study groups;

5 that representatives of Associates and Academia who belong to a parent ITU-T study group may participate in regional groups of that ITU-T study group, but may not participate in any decision making or liaison activity;

6 that Member States and Sectors Members that do not belong to the region concerned may attend meetings of regional groups of ITU-T study groups in an observer capacity;

7 to encourage cooperation of regional groups of ITU-T study groups with regional standardization entities (regional organizations, regional standardization bodies, and so forth), especially with the regional telecommunication organizations identified under bearing in mind of this resolution,

invites study groups

1 to pursue the creation of regional groups of ITU‑T study groups by developing draft terms of reference and working methods for these regional groups, which are to be reviewed, coordinated, and approved by TSAG

2 to coordinate joint meetings of the regional groups of ITU‑T study groups;

3 to terminate regional groups that are no longer active or that have fulfilled the mandate in their terms of reference,

instructs the Telecommunication Standardization Advisory Group

1 to review, coordinate, and approve regional groups of ITU-T study groups, including the terms of reference for these regional groups, taking into consideration the financial, operational and organizational implications for ITU-T;

2 to provide guidelines for the work of study groups by developing criteria in Recommendation ITU-T A.1 for the creation (and possible termination) of regional groups of ITU‑T study groups;

3 to revise clause 4.5 of Recommendation ITU-T A.1 (Regional Groups) in order to detail the working methods of regional groups of ITU-T study groups in accordance with this resolution and with Resolution 1 (Rev.Geneva, 2022),

instructs the Director of the Telecommunication Standardization Bureau, in collaboration with the Director of the Telecommunication Development Bureau

within the allocated or contributed resources that are available,

1 to provide all necessary support for creating and ensuring the smooth functioning of the regional groups;

2 to consider, whenever possible, holding workshops concurrently with meetings of the ITU‑T regional groups, in the relevant regions, and vice versa;

3 to take all necessary measures to facilitate the organization of meetings and workshops of the regional groups,

calls upon the Director of the Telecommunication Standardization Bureau

to cooperate with the Director of the Telecommunication Development Bureau in order to:

i) continue to provide specific assistance to regional groups;

ii) encourage the continuing development of computerized application tools to assist the members participating in any of the regional groups;

iii) take appropriate steps to facilitate meetings of regional groups in order to promote the necessary synergies among the three Sectors and thereby improve the effectiveness and efficiency of the study groups,

further invites the regional groups thus created

to cooperate closely with the relevant respective regional organizations, standardization bodies and ITU regional offices, and to report on their work in their regions.

1. 1 These include the least developed countries, small island developing states, landlocked developing countries and countries with economies in transition. [↑](#footnote-ref-1)