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| PLENARY MEETING | Addendum 6 toDocument 39-E |
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| Member States of the Inter-American Telecommunication Commission (CITEL) |
| Proposed modification of Resolution 76 |
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| **Abstract:** | CITEL proposes modifications to WTSA Resolution 76, taking into consideration the need for streamlining of resolutions as acknowledged by the 2018 Plenipotentiary Conference. |

Introduction

Taking into consideration the need for streamlining, the proposed modified text includes the removal of the preambular text that is already covered in Resolution 177 (Rev. Dubai, 2018) of the Plenipotentiary Conference on conformance and interoperability. Editorial changes are also made in the operational sections to align with Resolution 177.

Proposal

Modify WTSA Resolution 76 to provide shortened and concise text with editorial changes to clarify the meaning and intent of the text to align with PP Resolution 177.

MOD IAP/39A6/1

RESOLUTION 76 (Rev. Geneva, 2022)

Studies related to conformance and interoperability testing, assistance to developing countries[[1]](#footnote-1)1, and a possible future ITU Mark programme

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

The World Telecommunication Standardization Assembly (Geneva, 2022),

recalling

*a)* that the progress towards achievement of the objectives and outcomes of the work of each of the ITU Sectors is reported, as elaborated within the strategic plan for the Union for 2016-2019 in Annex 2 to Resolution 71 (Rev. Busan, 2014) of the Plenipotentiary Conference, contributing to the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development;

*b)* that Article 17 of the ITU Constitution, while providing that the functions of the ITU Telecommunication Standardization Sector (ITU‑T) shall fulfil the purposes of the Union relating to telecommunication standardization, stipulates that the ITU-T perform such functions "bearing in mind the particular concerns of the developing countries";

*c)* Resolution 177 (Rev. Dubai, 2018) of the Plenipotentiary Conference, on conformance and interoperability (C&I),

recognizing

*a)* that interoperability of international telecommunication networks was the main reason for creating the International Telegraph Union in 1865, and that this remains one of the main goals in the ITU strategic plan;

*b)* that emerging technologies could have needs for C&I testing;

*c)* that conformity assessment is the accepted way of demonstrating that a product adheres to an international standard, and conformance assessment continues to be important in the context of World Trade Organization members' international standardization commitments under the Agreement on Technical Barriers to Trade;

*d)* that Recommendations ITU‑T X.290 to ITU‑T X.296 specify a general methodology for conformance testing of equipment to ITU‑T Recommendations;

*e)* that conformance testing does not guarantee interoperability but could increase the chance of interoperability of equipment conforming to ITU‑T Recommendations;

*f)* that very few of the current ITU‑T Recommendations identify interoperability or conformance testing requirements, including both test procedures and performance criteria;

*g)* that assessment of conformity to certain ITU‑T Recommendations may imply defining key performance indicators as part of C&I testing specifications;

*h)* that interoperability testing of ICT equipment is an important type of testing from the user's perspective;

*i)* that technical training and institutional capacity development for testing and certification are essential issues for countries to improve their conformity assessment processes, to promote the deployment of advanced telecommunication networks and to increase global connectivity;

*j)* that it is not appropriate for ITU to engage in certification and testing of equipment and services that many regional and national standards bodies currently provide for conformance testing;

*k)* that CASC has been set up for the purpose of developing a procedure for the recognition of ITU experts and elaborating detailed procedures for the implementation of a test laboratory recognition procedure in ITU‑T;

*l)* that CASC, in collaboration with the International Electrotechnical Commission (IEC), is working on the establishment of a joint IEC/ITU certification scheme for conformity with ITU‑T Recommendations,

further recognizing

*a)* that providing for interoperability should be an important consideration when developing future ITU‑T Recommendations;

*b)* that enhancing Member States' capabilities for conformance assessment and testing and the availability of national and regional conformance assessment testing facilities may help combat counterfeit telecommunication/ICT devices and equipment;

*c)* that C&I testing can facilitate the interoperability of certain emerging technologies such as IoT, IMT-2020,

considering

*a)* that there are numbers of complaints that equipment is often not fully interoperable with other equipment;

*b)* that some countries, especially the developing countries, have not yet acquired the capacity to test equipment and provide assurance to consumers in their countries;

*c)* that interoperability testing could increase the chances of end-to-end interoperability of equipment from different manufacturers, and would assist developing countries in the choice of solutions;

*d)* the importance, especially to developing countries, that ITU takes up a leading role in the implementation of the ITU C&I programme, with ITU‑T taking lead responsibility for Pillars 1 and 2, and the ITU Telecommunication Development Sector (ITU‑D) for Pillars 3 and 4;

*e)* that the remote testing of equipment and services using virtual laboratories may enable countries, especially those with economies in transition and developing countries, to conduct C&I testing, while at the same time facilitating the exchange of experience among technical experts taking into account the positive results achieved in implementing the ITU pilot project for the creation of such laboratories,

considering further

the decision of the Council at its 2012 session concerning postponement of the implementation of the ITU Mark until such time as Pillar 1 (conformity assessment) of the action plan has reached a more mature stage of development,

noting

*a)* that C&I requirements to support testing are essential components for developing interoperable equipment that is based on ITU‑T Recommendations;

*b)* that considerable practical experience exists within the ITU‑T membership regarding the production of relevant testing requirements and the testing procedures on which the actions proposed in this resolution are based;

*c)* the need to assist developing countries in facilitating interoperable solutions which can help in reducing the cost of systems and equipment procurement by operators, particularly in the developing countries;

*d)* that when interoperability experiments or testing are not performed, users may suffer from the lack of interconnection performance between equipment from different manufacturers;

*e)* that availability of equipment tested as per ITU‑T Recommendations for C&I may provide the basis for achieving a greater choice of solutions, greater competitiveness and more economies of scale,

taking into account

*a)* that some ITU‑T members carry out testing activities, including ITU‑T study group pilot projects, to assess C&I;

*b)* that ITU standardization resources are limited, and C&I testing requires specific technical infrastructure;

*c)* that a diverse set of expertise is required for developing C&I test suites, C&I testing standardization, product development and product testing;

*d)* that it is of advantage if regional and national accreditation and certification bodies conduct the C&I testing, rather than the standardization experts responsible for developing the specifications;

*e)* that collaboration with a range of external conformity assessment bodies (including accreditation and certification) is necessary;

*f)* that some forums, consortia and other organizations have already established certification programmes,

resolves

1 to continue working on the pilot projects that encourage conformity to ITU‑T Recommendations to gain experience and identify requirements and methodology in the development of test suites;

2 that ITU‑T Study Group 11 continues to coordinate the Sector's activities related to the ITU C&I programme across all study groups;

3 that ITU‑T Study Group 11 continues to undertake activities within the C&I programme, including pilot projects on conformance/interoperability testing;

4 to develop a programme, in collaboration with the other Sectors as appropriate, to:

i) assist developing countries in capacity building on C&I (Pillar 3) and establishing test centres in developing countries, aimed at promoting regional integration and common C&I programmes (Pillar 4);

ii) assist developing countries in establishing regional or subregional C&I centres and encourage public-private partnership between governmental and non-governmental, national and regional organizations and international accreditation and certification bodies, that amongst other things, cooperate to prevent any overlaps;

iii) develop and improve the mutual recognition of C&I testing procedures and results between different regional testing centres;

5 that conformance testing requirements shall provide for verification of the parameters defined in the current and future ITU‑T Recommendations as determined by the study groups developing the Recommendations, and for interoperability testing to take into account user needs and consider market demand, as appropriate;

6 to develop a set of methodologies and procedures for remote testing using virtual laboratories;

7 that ITU, being a world standardization body, can address the impediments to harmonization and growth of worldwide telecommunications and promote the visibility of ITU standards (ensure interoperability), by means of having an ITU testing mark regime, taking into account the technical and legal implications, if any, and/or any revenue-generating possibilities, taking into consideration *recognizing j)*,

invites Member States and Sector Members of the ITU Telecommunication Development Sector

to evaluate and assess the risks and various costs resulting from the lack of C&I tests, particularly in developing countries, and share necessary information and recommendations to avoid losses, based on best practices,

instructs the Director of the Telecommunication Standardization Bureau

1 to continue consultations and assessment studies in all regions, taking into consideration the needs of each region, on implementation of the action plan endorsed by the Council, including, in collaboration with the Director of the Telecommunication Development Bureau (BDT), the recommendations on human capacity building and assistance in the establishment of test facilities in developing countries;

2 to implement the action plan agreed by the Council at its 2012 session and revised by the Council at its 2014 session in cooperation with the Director of BDT;

3 considering *resolves*7, to accelerate the implementation of Pillar 1 to ensure gradual and smooth accomplishment of the other three pillars and the possible implementation of the ITU Mark;

4 to continue implementing the ITU C&I programme, including the informative pilot conformity database identifying products' conformance and origin, in cooperation with the Director of BDT, and in consultation with each region;

5 to publish an annual plan of C&I activities which could attract more members' participation;

6 to involve experts and external entities as appropriate;

7 to provide progress reports on the activities carried out under the action plan to the Council for its consideration and required actions,

instructs the study groups

1 to accelerate accomplishing the pilot projects started by ITU‑T study groups and identify existing ITU‑T Recommendations that would be candidates for C&I testing, taking into account the needs of the membership, and that are capable of providing end-to-end interoperable services on a global scale, adding to their content, if necessary, specific requirements within their scope;

2 to prepare the ITU‑T Recommendations identified in *instructs the study groups* 1 above, with a view to conducting C&I tests as appropriate;

3 to continue and enhance cooperation, as appropriate, with interested stakeholders, including other SDOs, forums and consortia, in order to optimize studies to prepare test specifications, taking into account user needs and in consideration of the market demand for a conformity assessment programme;

4 to submit to CASC a list of ITU‑T Recommendations which could be candidates for the joint IEC/ITU certification scheme, taking into account market needs,

instructs the ITU Telecommunication Standardization Sector Conformity Assessment Steering Committee

in collaboration with existing certification schemes such as that of IEC, to study and define a procedure to recognize testing laboratories that are competent to test according to ITU‑T Recommendations,

invites the Council

to consider the Director's report referred to in *instructs the Director of the Telecommunication Standardization Bureau* 7 above,

invites Member States and Sector Members

1 to contribute to the implementation of this Resolution by, including, but not limited to:

i) actively providing requirements for testing activities on C&I through contributions to related study groups;

ii) considering potential collaboration on future C&I activities;

iii) contributing to the Product Conformity Database;

2 to encourage national and regional testing entities to assist ITU‑T in implementing this resolution.

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