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| **Abstract:** | This document proposes further amendments to the draft for “WTSA preparation guideline on Resolutions” for consideration at the RG-WTSA meeting during the TSAG meeting 22 - 26 Jan 2024. |

**Discussion:**

In-force WTSA Resolutions are a result of lengthy process, exhaustive work and member's consensus. In addition,WTSA Resolutions exist to facilitate the implementations of higher conferences (e.g. Plenipotentiary Conference), it should not viewed as a duplication. WTSA Resolutions should have its clear stand-alone documentation that shows inter-relation details between ITU-T and others, while keeping in mind level of information should be comprehend by both familiar participants and new comers (WTSA Resolutions should be self-contained document). WTSA Resolutions streamlining should be implemented, while keeping in mind that these Resolutions are high level international governing tools that need to present all required information for all without document length constrain.

While streamlining resolutions can bring some benefits, there are also potential drawbacks and challenges that should be considered, some disadvantages of resolution streamlining include:

1. **Oversimplification**: Streamlining resolutions may lead to oversimplification or superficial treatment of complex issues. By removing certain elements or steps, there is a risk of overlooking important nuances, considerations, or alternative perspectives. This can result in resolutions that lack depth or fail to address the full complexity of the problem at hand.

2. **Risk of Lack involvement by Member State & Sector Member**: Streamlining resolutions will result in extra load of work to Member State and Sector Member, and without sufficient input from all members, this can lead to a lack of support, causing implementation challenges or hindering its effectiveness.

3. **Inadequate deliberation and debate**: Streamlining resolutions can sometimes curtail the opportunity for thorough deliberation and robust debate. When the process is focused on efficiency and quick decision-making, there may be limited time or space for in-depth discussions, exploration of alternative solutions, or consideration of diverse viewpoints. This can result in resolutions that lack comprehensive analysis or fail to address potential unintended consequences.

5. **Stability of text**: Streamlining an agreed text could raise risk of lengthy discussions and may result in resistance from Member States and Sector Members or groups who are resistant to change or accustomed to existing processes. Participants may fear loss the exact meaning of a clause, or simply have a language barrier to assure the exact meaning.

6. **Unforeseen consequences with context of ITU-T**: Rapid streamlining without careful consideration of potential consequences (that may occur) can result in unintended negative outcomes. Changes made to a resolution may have "ripple effects" on related processes or systems, leading to unforeseen challenges, disruptions, or unintended consequences.

Regarding the preamble of a Resolution, it serves as a critical introductory section in resolutions by providing a comprehensive framework for understanding the purpose, context, and justifications of the resolution, while also promoting consensus, legal coherence, and effective implementation, the preamble of any given Resolution is an important component of a resolution, it serves several crucial purposes:

1. **Contextualization**: The preamble provides context and background information on the issue or topic being addressed in the resolution. It outlines the reasons, motivations, historical background, or relevant events that have led to the need for the resolution. By establishing this context, the preamble helps the member state, sector members and Study groups understand the rationale behind the resolution with all others vertically and horizontally and its significance.

2. **Justification**: The preamble justifies the actions or decisions proposed in the operative clauses of the resolution. It explains the principles, values, or legal basis upon which the resolution is built. This justification helps in persuading the readers or delegates to support and endorse the proposed measures or policies.

3. **Consensus-building**: The preamble can help build consensus among the parties involved. By acknowledging different perspectives, recognizing shared concerns or goals, or emphasizing common values, the preamble creates a sense of unity and encourages collaboration. It sets a positive tone for the resolution and increases the likelihood of support from a wider range of stakeholders.

4. **Legal implications**: In international contexts, the preamble can have legal implications. It may reference existing treaties, Resolutions (including UN-Res., WTDC Res., …), to establish the legal foundation for the Resolution.

5. **Interpretation and implementation**: The preamble can provide guidance on the interpretation and implementation of the resolution. It may clarify the intended scope, purpose, or objectives of the resolution, helping to prevent misunderstandings or misinterpretations. The preamble can also highlight the desired outcomes or impacts of the resolution, facilitating its effective implementation.

**Proposal**:

Given above discussion, we suggest the following amendments on [TSAG-TD261-R1](https://www.itu.int/md/T22-TSAG-230530-TD-GEN-0261) draft text.

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| Supplement X to ITU-T A-series Recommendations  WTSA Preparation Guideline on Resolutions |

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| Summary |

This supplement provide guideline for ITU-T members on the principles on streamlining Resolutions, and how to propose draft new and revised existing WTSA Resolutions in the preparation for WTSA .

The review of WTSA Resolutions include editorial updates, identify overlap, identify candidates for merging or suppression, prepare consolidated draft texts, active involvement of the regional telecommunication organizations in pre-WTSA deliberations.

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| History   |  |  |  |  |  | | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | | Edition | Recommendation | Approval | Study Group | Unique ID[[1]](#footnote-1)\* | | 0.1 | ITU-T A.SupWTSAGL | Agreement | TSAG |  | |

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| Supplement X to ITU-T A-series Recommendations  WTSA preparation guideline on Resolutions |

# 1 Scope

This supplement provide guideline for ITU-T members on the principles on streamlining Resolutions, and how to propose draft new and revised existing WTSA Resolutions in the preparation for WTSA .

The review of WTSA Resolutions include editorial updates, identify overlap, identify candidates for merging or suppression, prepare consolidated draft texts, active involvement of the regional telecommunication organizations in pre-WTSA deliberations.

# 2 References

*[To be developed]*

# 3 Definitions

## 3.1 Terms defined elsewhere

None.

## 3.2 Terms defined in this Supplement

This Supplement defines the following terms:

*[To be developed]*

# 4 Abbreviations and acronyms

This Supplement uses the following abbreviations and acronyms:

*[To be developed]*

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| MOD | Modification |
| MS | Member State |
| PP | Plenipotentiary Conference |
| RA | Radiocommunication Assembly |
| SDG | Sustainable Development Goal |
| SG | Study Group |
| SM | Sector Member |
| SUP | Suppression |
| TSB | Telecommunication Standardization Bureaux |
| WTDC | World Telecommunication Development Conference |
| WTSA | World Telecommunication Standardization Assembly |

# 5 Conventions

None.

# 6 Guidelines for Streamlining of Resolutions

## Mechanisms and reasoning of streamlining of Resolutions

This clause provides the potential streamlining action of Resolutions for

• MOD (Modification):

* + 1. **Modified** (to bring them up-to-date, or for house-keeping), or
    2. **Merged** (for thematically related Resolutions, or Resolution of the same category/subject) so as to reduce redundancy , or
    3. **Aligned** with other Resolutions (at vertical (e.g. PP) or horizontal (e.g. WTSA) levels), to reduce redundancy, or

• SUP (Suppression):

**6.1.6**  Supressed (for obsolete Resolutions)

*[Editor’s note: Clause 6.1 needs to be further modified with clarification and definitions to reduce overlaps between options]*

## Approach for streamlining of Resolutions

**6.2.1**  To review and examine in-force WTSA Resolutions with a view to streamlining them, taking into account

* + - * 1. the PP Resolutions and Council Resolutions (vertically),
        2. Resolutions of other Sectors like WTDC, WRC, (horizontally)

as appropriate.

**6.2.2**

**6.2.3** To prepare towards revision/modification/suppression/addition of Resolutions for WTSA and for PP.

## 6.3 Guiding principles for streamlining in-force WTSA resolutions

**6.3.1** At WTSA, the in-force WTSA resolutions should be examined with the objective to modify, merge, align, or suppress completed/obsolete ones and parts thereof based on contributions from ITU-T members

**6.3.2** The following guiding principles might prove useful in the work on streamlining resolutions and are be followed to the extent possible to help the ITU membership to draft proposals, so that WTSA Resolutions are concise and ITU-T focused; implementable; effective; and stay abreast with the evolution of telecommunication and information technologies and services standardization environment, taking into account WSIS Action Lines and SDGs:

Table 1 Guiding principles for streamlining existing WTSA resolutions

| **Principle** | **Questions** | **Possible streamlining actions** | |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Overlap and duplication** | Is there an overlap or duplication with other in-force WTSA resolutions or with the WTSA Action Plan?  Are the goals of resolutions already reflected in the ITU-T Strategic Plan objectives, outputs and outcomes, Study Group (SG) Questions or working methods?  Is there already another WTSA/Council/PP resolution or resolutions which address the same topic or action? Has the resolution already been implemented? | * MOD and/or SUP | |
|  |  |  |
| **Action-orientation and accountability** | Does the resolution call for a specific action or outcome? Is there a clear accountability line in the resolution? | * MOD | |

**6.3.3** . ITU-T Study Groups should analyze the related WTSA Resolutions’ implementation activities during WTSA preparation, and send a WTSA Resolution streamlining candidates list to TSAG via a liaison.

**6.3.4** When the actions or activities put forward in a resolution have been fully implemented or accomplished, the resolution can be viewed as fulfilled and can be removed.

**6.3.5** If no change is to be made to the substance of the WTSA resolution, no editorial updates (such as date/venue of conference) will be made to the WTSA resolution, i.e. it should remain as is (unchanged).

**6.3.6** Editorial revisions of adopted resolutions should be kept to the minimum or to what is strictly necessary for its efficient implementation.

**6.3.7** If only editorial updates are required to a WTSA resolution, the necessary editorial amendments could be entrusted by WTSA to TSB in the publication of the Resolution.

**6.3.8** All PP and WTSA Resolutions in the same category/subject should be examined and reviewed during the preparation of WTSA in regional preparatory meetings and inter-regional coordination meetings. A WTSA Resolution streamlining candidates list, in particular working methods documents, should be provided by TSB based on all of the liaisons (ref to 6.3.3) for informationof ITU-T members.

# 7 Guidelines for drafting new WTSA Resolutions

The following principles are suggested to be followed to help the ITU membership to draft proposals, so that resolutions of the World Telecommunication Standardization Assembly are concise and ITU-T focused; implementable; effective; and stay abreast with the evolution of telecommunication and information technologies and the ICT standardization environment.

* 1. All similar/related subjects are recommended to be concise and be addressed in one single WTSA resolution to the extent possible ("stand-alone principle"). Thus, in general, revising an existing WTSA resolution is preferable to adding a new WTSA resolution.
  2. The "preamble" part of a WTSA resolution should be as concise as possible, summarizing key rationales for justification. It is undesirable to repeat the exact texts of "preamble" part of the relevant PP resolution, and to provide reference to this resolution.. Any additional explanation and justification such as a detailed chronicle of events, bibliography, historical activities and achievements could be submitted as background material in a contribution,
  3. Cross-reference to other ITU resolutions should be kept to the minimum as necessary ("minimum cross-reference principle"), at the same time striking a balance not to insert material copied from other instruments.
  4. Once an ITU resolution on the same/relevant subject is referenced, any identicaljustification/rational text should be minimized whereas additional ITU-T specific justification/rational could be added to this WTSA resolution ("no repetition principle").
  5. Reference to the ITU Constitution, Convention and the General rules should prevail a reference to a resolution of a Plenipotentiary conference when applicable, and where it is strongly required, could exist together with a duplication of the referred text to make the WTSA resolution stand on its own (exception to "stand-alone principle").
  6. When reference to the conclusion or output of an event is deemed necessary, the reference should be meaningful and in substance to specify its relevance, avoiding only listing the event per se ("no chronicle of events principle").
  7. Any reference to documents should be meaningful and in substance to specify its relevance to the purpose of the Resolution ("no bibliography principle").
  8. When drafting the "operational" part of a WTSA resolution, it should be borne in mind that:
  9. an instruction given to the ITU membership is non-binding;
  10. an instruction given to ITU-T SG will be enhanced once its followed by a contribution to the ITU-T study group to drive the work to progress. SG management may also encourage members to support the implementation of the instruction.
  11. The "operational" part of a WTSA resolution should:

1. include instructions and tasks from the relevant PP resolutions if exist;
2. include instructions and tasks assigned by other ITU conferences and assemblies to ITU-T on the relevant thematic if exist;
3. use an appropriate verb to specify an implementable action by a respective entity according to its proper mandate ("identified entity and specific action principle");
4. specify an expected result(s) so that the achievement in implementing this action can be measurable as much as possible using objective measurement methodologies ("measurable result principle");
5. plan or recommend a course of actions with milestones/check-points as appropriate ("planning principle"); and
6. specify a reporting and expiration mechanism as appropriate ("report/expire principle")
7. specify concrete instructions for relevant SGs and TSAG for the implementation of the resolution, if required.

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1. \* To access the Recommendation, type the URL http://handle.itu.int/ in the address field of your web browser, followed by the Recommendation's unique ID. For example, [http://handle.itu.int/11.1002/1000/  
   11830-en](http://handle.itu.int/11.1002/1000/11830-en). [↑](#footnote-ref-1)