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| **Title:** | | Support for the continuation of JCA-DCC with modified title and Terms of Reference | | | |
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| **Abstract:** | This Contribution supports the continuation of JCA-DCC with revised title and Terms of Reference as in [DCC-054](https://extranet.itu.int/sites/itu-t/jca/dcc/meetingdocs/JCA-DCC-054.docx) to cover “verifiable health credentials (VHC)”. |

1. **Introduction**

JCA-DCC on Digital COVID-19 certificates (DCCs) coordinates standardization work on DCCs between relevant ITU-T Study Groups, external organizations and forums, to foster the use of compatible data architectures for sharing data, and promoting interoperability, agility and safety for users, and all relevant stakeholders involved. JCA-DCC reports to TSAG.

Digital COVID-19 certificates have been implemented worldwide based on either the public key infrastructure (PKI) or on distributed ledger technologies (DLTs). They were a means to provide proof of vaccination during the COVID-19 pandemic to facilitate safe travel and curb further spread of the virus. Challenges, however, still persist in achieving global interoperability between the different implementations of digital COVID-19 certificates. There is a need to establish interoperability frameworks to ensure seamless verification and acceptance across borders.​

Looking beyond COVID-19, there are opportunities to expand verifiable health credentials to cover other diseases, such as yellow fever or Monkeypox. Leveraging the lessons learned from digital COVID-19 certificates, a global trust framework for future verifiable health credentials that enhances healthcare efficiency and enables secure sharing of health information while respecting privacy could be envisioned. Verifiable health credentials can be implemented by technologies: public key infrastructure(PKI) and distributed ledger technologies. Each of technologies may have pros and cons. Verifiable health credentials could be implemented together with mobile driver’s license. Verifiable health credentials may have four use cases: issuing, importing, and offline verification of the verifiable health credentials, and verification by airlines. It also can be used to prevent the spreading of infectious diseases worldwide.

It is noted that this JCA-DCC has been very active since its establishment on January 2022 TSAG meeting by holding JCA-DCC meetings 5 times:

* **Meeting 5:**Seoul**,** ​​11 September 2023  
  [Meeting documents](https://extranet.itu.int/sites/itu-t/jca/dcc/meetingdocs/Forms/05.aspx) | [Report​](https://extranet.itu.int/sites/itu-t/jca/dcc/meetingdocs/JCA-DCC-060.docx)
* **Meeting 4:**Geneva, 24 February 2023  
  [Meeting documents](https://extranet.itu.int/sites/itu-t/jca/dcc/meetingdocs/Forms/04.aspx) | [Report​](https://extranet.itu.int/sites/itu-t/jca/dcc/meetingdocs/JCA-DCC-052.docx)
* **Meeting 3:** E-meeting, 2 December 2022  
  [Meeting doc​umen​ts​](https://extranet.itu.int/sites/itu-t/jca/dcc/meetingdocs/Forms/03.aspx)​ ​| [Report](https://extranet.itu.int/sites/itu-t/jca/dcc/meetingdocs/JCA-DCC-041.docx)
* **Meeting 2:**Geneva, 26 August 2022  
  [Meeting doc​umen​ts​](https://extranet.itu.int/sites/itu-t/jca/dcc/meetingdocs/Forms/02.aspx)​ ​| [Report  ​](https://extranet.itu.int/sites/itu-t/jca/dcc/meetingdocs/JCA-DCC-028.docx)
* **Meeting 1:**E-meeting, 1 June 2022  
  [Meeting doc​umen​ts​](https://extranet.itu.int/sites/itu-t/jca/dcc/meetingdocs/Forms/01.aspx)​ ​| [Repo​rt](https://extranet.itu.int/sites/itu-t/jca/dcc/meetingdocs/JCA-DCC-019.docx)

and holding three workshops as follows:

* [ITU/WHO Workshop on Future of Verifiable Health Credentials](https://www.itu.int/en/ITU-T/Workshops-and-Seminars/2023/0911/Pages/default.aspx), 11 September 2023
* [2nd Joint ITU/WHO Workshop on Digital COVID-19 Certificates​​](https://www.itu.int/en/ITU-T/Workshops-and-Seminars/2021/1126/Pages/default.aspx), 26 November 2021
* [​​​​​​​​​​​​​​​​​​​​​​​​​​​​​​​​​​​​​​​​​​​​​​​​​​​​​​​​​​​​​​​​​​​​​​​​​​ITU/WHO Workshop on "Digital Vaccination Certificate"​](https://www.itu.int/en/ITU-T/Workshops-and-Seminars/2021/0811/Pages/default.aspx), 11 August 2021

It is recognized that WHO/Europe and the EPHA sign new MoU to strengthen collaboration for better health and well-being in Europe, which is related to the verifiable health credentials. EU representatives are actively involved in JCA-DCC activities since its establishment.

It is noted that this JCA-DCC is co-chaired by ITU-T SG17 chairman and WHO representative, Mr Carl Leitner, which is joint collaboration activities between ITU and WHO.

It is noted that the 5th JCA-DCC meeting was held in Seoul on 11 September 2023 from 18:30 to 20:00 (KST). 44 participants in total attended both the JCA-DCC meeting and joint ITU/WHO Workshop on “*Future of verifiable health credentials beyond COVID-19*”. Major participation organizations include International Civil Aviation Organization, European Commission, Korea Disease Control and Prevention Agency, World Health Organization, Inter-American Development Bank, Ecma International, International Organization for Standardization, Ministry of Science and ICT(Republic of Korea), Office of the European Data Protection Supervisor etc.

It is recognized that the meeting reviewed and agreed to revise the title and Terms of Reference for JCA-DCC as in [TSAG TD 391](https://www.itu.int/md/meetingdoc.asp?lang=en&parent=T22-TSAG-240122-TD-GEN-0391)([DCC-054](https://extranet.itu.int/sites/itu-t/jca/dcc/meetingdocs/JCA-DCC-054.docx)) which proposed to modify the scope of the JCA to cover “verifiable health credentials (VHC)” and the coordination of standardization work on VHCs taking the DCC as an example. The meeting also agreed to forward the proposal to revise the title and Terms of Reference of JCA-DCC to TSAG for endorsement requesting the modifications to take effect from the next Study Period (2025-2028).

1. **Proposal**

Korea (Republic of) supports the proposal of JCA-DCC described in [TSAG TD 391](https://www.itu.int/md/meetingdoc.asp?lang=en&parent=T22-TSAG-240122-TD-GEN-0391)([DCC-054](https://extranet.itu.int/sites/itu-t/jca/dcc/meetingdocs/JCA-DCC-054.docx)) with its title of JCA-VHC (verifiable health credentials) and ToR of JCA-VHC, which suggests TSAG to endorse the continuation of the JCA with modified title and ToR to take effect from the next Study Period (2025-2028) .

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