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| **Abstract:** | This contribution gives a status report on preparations for WTSA-24 in the Africa region, in accordance with the plan set out in TSB Circular 137. |

# INTRODUCTION

The first African preparatory meeting for WTSA-2024 was held online from 15 to 16 February 2023. One of the key outcomes of this meeting was the preparatory structure put in place. It consists of the plenary group and its two sub-groups, as well as two working groups. In preparation for the second African preparatory meeting for WTSA-24, which will take place from 5 to 9 February in Nairobi, Kenya, the two working groups held their first two meetings on 15 May and 2 October 2023 respectively. The plenary sub-group in charge of preparations for WTSA-24 held its virtual meeting on 14 December 2023. Please find below the report on preparations for WTSA-24 in the Africa region, in accordance with the plan set out in TSB Circular 137.

# A WORK PROGRAMME AND STUDY GROUP STRUCTURE

ATU Working Group 2, set up during the meeting held in February mentioned above, is working on the work programme and restructuring of the study groups (SGs) of the ITU Standardization Sector.

At its first meeting held on 2 October 2023, and following discussion on the work of the TSAG Rapporteur Group on the work programme, restructuring and coordination of the study groups (RG-WPR), the countries of the region decided for the time being to adopt a position of “No change” regarding the number of study groups, on the following grounds:

– Risk of dispersing the expertise of the study groups and rendering them less effective;

– Risk of overloading certain study groups which would be unable to deal with all work items in the work programme, resulting *ipso facto* in many obsolete items during the same study period;

– Increase in meeting participation cost for members.

# B WORKING METHODS AND OTHER RELATED ISSUES (such as electronic working methods)

As far as working methods are concerned, the ATU working group responsible for working methods also held its first meeting on 2 October 2023. The meeting considered the proposal to modify Recommendation ITU-T A.1, drafted certain recommendations, and invited members to submit contributions to the next TSAG meeting. Contributions will be presented by members at the next TSAG meeting, *inter alia*, on:

– Recommendation ITU-T A.1 on working methods for study groups of the ITU Telecommunication Standardization Sector;

– Revision of Recommendations ITU-T A.4, ITU-T A.5 and ITU-T A.6.

These contributions take account of the meeting outcomes of the TSAG Rapporteur Group on working methods.

The conclusions of discussions on working methods at the next TSAG meeting are an important step towards helping the region take stock of this matter during its second preparatory meeting, which will be held from 5 to 9 February 2024.

# C CONSENSUS DEVELOPED THROUGH BILATERAL INTER-REGIONAL DISCUSSIONS IF ANY

At the invitation of CITEL, ATU took part in the last CITEL preparatory meeting for WTSA-24.

Bilateral discussions have not yet been held on substantive matters with the other regions.

After the meeting in February 2024, we will no doubt have topics of interest to be discussed with the other regions.

CONCLUSION

As part of its preparations for the second African preparatory meeting for WTSA-24, the ATU plenary group in charge of preparations for WTSA-24 held its first meeting on 14 December 2023. The following contributions were considered at that meeting:

– proposal to modify the work programme of SG5;

– proposal to modify Resolution 77;

– proposed new resolution on sustainable digital transformation;

– proposal to modify Resolution 88;

– proposal for “No change” to Resolution 99.

Two new contributions will be considered by the next preparatory meeting, namely:

– proposal for a new resolution on OTTs;

– proposal to modify Resolution 91.

ATU members have been invited to consider these contributions and to state their views at the meeting in February on how the contributions can be taken into account in drafting common African proposals.

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