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| A black and white logo  Description automatically generated with low confidence | INTERNATIONAL TELECOMMUNICATION UNION  **TELECOMMUNICATION STANDARDIZATION SECTOR**  STUDY PERIOD 2022-2024 | | TSAG-TD133 | | |
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| **Source:** | | TSB Director | | | |
| **Title:** | | WTSA-20: Use of in-person and virtual options on an equal footing in the activities of the ITU Telecommunication Standardization Sector | | | |
| **Contact:** | | TSB | | | E-mail: [simao.campos@itu.int](mailto:simao.campos@itu.int) |

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| **Abstract:** | This document informs TSAG about proposed (but not adopted) draft new WTSA-20 Resolution [IAP- 3] on *Use of in-person and virtual options on an equal footing in the activities of the ITU Telecommunication Standardization Sector*, as requested by WTSA-20. |

The World Telecommunication Standardization Assembly (WTSA-20, Geneva 2022) discussed a contribution from a region proposing a WTSA resolution on the use of in-person and virtual options on an equal footing in the activities of the ITU Telecommunication Standardization Sector. The following extract from the [WTSA-20 Proceedings](https://www.itu.int/pub/T-REG-LIV.1-2022/en) reflects the discussion on that contribution:

***6 Draft new Resolution [IAP-3], Use of in-person and virtual options on an equal footing in the activities of the ITU Telecommunication Standardization Sector.***

*A representative from Uruguay, on behalf of CITEL, presented Document C39 Add.23 (ref. IAP/39A32/1), which proposes a draft new Resolution [IAP-3] on use of in-person and virtual options on an equal footing in the activities of the ITU Telecommunication Standardization Sector.*

*The Plenary was conscious that the technical aspects concerning (electronic) working methods are addressed in Committee 3 and in Working Group 3A pertaining to WTSA Resolution 32.*

*Furthermore, the Plenary was also conscious of ongoing and related work in the TSAG Ad hoc Group on the governance and management of e-meetings (TSAG AHG-GME), and also of possible implications on other matters of financial, operational and legal nature pertaining to the scope of Council and the Plenipotentiary Conference with regard to changes to the General Rules that would potentially be necessary if this particular proposal is to be implemented.*

*The Plenary asked the Director of TSB to bring this proposal to the attention of the TSAG Ad hoc Group on the governance and management of e-meetings, to the Council, and to the Plenipotentiary Conference.*

Note – WTSA-20 did **not** adopt [IAP-3].

The WTSA-20 proposal [IAP-3] is reproduced in the Annex.

**References: (two)**

* [C22/24-R1](https://www.itu.int/md/meetingdoc.asp?lang=en&parent=S22-CL-C-0024): Report on the Global Standards Symposium (GSS-20) and the World Telecommunication Standardization Assembly (WTSA-20)
* [PP22 C-71](https://www.itu.int/md/meetingdoc.asp?lang=en&parent=S22-PP-C-0071): Extract from WTSA-20 Proceedings - Use of in-person and virtual options on an equal footing in the activities of the ITU Telecommunication Standardization Sector.

**Annex**

Draft New Resolution [IAP-3]

Use of in-person and virtual options on an equal footing in the activities of the ITU Telecommunication Standardization Sector

(Geneva, 2022)

The World Telecommunication Standardization Assembly (Geneva, 2022),

considering

*a)* the difficulties faced by many countries, even those not experiencing a health crisis, in participating actively in in-person meetings of the ITU Telecommunication Standardization Sector (ITU-T);

*b)* that such difficulties most severely affect developing countries[[1]](#footnote-1) by limiting them to in‑person participation in various meetings;

*c)* Resolution 64 (Rev. Dubai, 2018), on non-discriminatory access to modern telecommunication/information and communication technology facilities, services and applications, including applied research and transfer of technology, and e-meetings, on mutually agreed terms;

*d)* Resolution 123 (Rev. Dubai, 2018), on bridging the standardization gap between developing and developed countries;

*e)* Resolution 167 (Rev. Dubai, 2018), on strengthening and developing ITU capabilities for electronic meetings and means to advance the work of the Union,

observing

*a)* that the existing electronic working methods (EWM) used by ITU have been transformed and strengthened as a result of the coronavirus disease (COVID-19) pandemic;

*b)* that the global health emergency has fostered the use of EWM via existing technological platforms, and that these have provided the expected results;

*c)* that, in normal circumstances, the use of tools implemented by ITU must be optimized in the meetings of the various study groups and in the activities of the Sector;

*d)* that virtual accessibility to activities provides members with the opportunity to increase their participation, via electronic means, in the drafting and approval of Recommendations, in particular members for whom in-person participation in study group meetings and other activities of the Sector is difficult,

considering further

that, whether a meeting is held virtually or in person, virtual participation tools should always be made available and should be kept up to date,

resolves

1 that the necessary measures regarding electronic working methods should be adopted to ensure that virtual/remote access for ITU-T members to all work activities is provided on an equal footing in regard to in-person participation, including (upon request and where possible) interpretation into the six official languages of ITU;

2 that work activities conducted via electronic methods should be considered equal to, simultaneous to and fully integrated with in-person working methods used by ITU-T,

instructs

1 the Director of the Telecommunication Standardization Bureau (TSB):

• to create, as soon as possible, the conditions necessary to implement this resolution, and to follow up on its implementation, especially with a view to bridging the standardization gap (BSG);

• to analyse, in collaboration with the Directors of the Radiocommunication Bureau and of the Telecommunication Development Bureau, the possibility of extending this proposal to the activities of all other ITU Sectors;

2 the Telecommunication Standardization Advisory Group:

• to request the chairmen of the study groups to identify all other possible uses of EWM that would help increase the participation of all interested parties;

• to identify, on the basis of the experience gained and opinions deemed necessary for future work, the improvements required by users with regard to simultaneous interactions via EWM and in-person activities;

• to follow up on the results of both physical and virtual interactions with regard to achieving the aims of the Sector by providing information on participation forms and follow-up activities conducted,

invites

the ITU Council to conduct an evaluation of, and make recommendations on, the potential of virtual tools to support ITU activities and to help achieve participation targets.

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