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|  | INTERNATIONAL TELECOMMUNICATION UNION  **TELECOMMUNICATION STANDARDIZATION SECTOR**  STUDY PERIOD 2022-2024 | | TSAG-TD275R4 |
| TSAG |
| Original: English |
| **Question(s):** | | RG-WM | Geneva, 30 May – 2 June 2023 |
| **TD** | | | |
| **Source:** | | Rapporteur, TSAG Rapporteur group on working methods | |
| **Title:** | | Working document to discuss a possible way forward for Recs ITU-T A.4 and A.6 | |
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**Abstract:** This TD is a working document to support the discussion on contribution C29 (Proposed way forward for Recs. ITU-T A.4, A.5 and A.6 and related qualified organizations) at the ad hoc group on Thu 1 June, 13:30-14:15.

**Action**: This TD is proposed for discussion in RG-WM.

**Results of the ad hoc session on Thursday 1 June, 13:30-14:25:**

It was agreed that, if Recommendations ITU-T A.4 and/or A.6 are kept, the following requirements would be added to them:

* Once a study group has decided to request the qualification of an organization, the Member State where this organization is based will be consulted.
* When an organization request its qualification directly to the TSB Director, the Member State where this organization is based will be consulted.
* An organization that is A.4- or A.6-qualified would be moved to the historical part of the database if no communication has occurred for 4 years.

It was also agreed that the decisions highlighted under items 1 and 2 below will be implemented by TSB before the next TSAG meeting. Items 3, 4 and 5 will be further discussed at an interim rapporteur group meeting (12 Sep 2023, 13:00-15:00 Geneva time).

Items for discussion and agreement:

1. **Update the** [**list of A.4-, A.5- and A.6-qualified organizations**](https://www.itu.int/en/ITU-T/extcoop/Pages/sdo.aspx) **as follows:**
   1. Delete the following entries as these entities do not exist anymore:
      1. [**3G Association**](http://www.3gassociation.ru) **(A.4/ALL)**
      2. [**ASN.1 Consortium**](https://www.itu.int/en/ITU-T/extcoop/Pages/sdo.aspx) **(A.4/ALL)**
      3. [**IPsphere Forum**](http://www.ipsphereforum.org) **(A.4/ALL), merged with TM Forum (A.4 and A.5)**
      4. [**OIPF**](http://www.openiptvforum.org) **(A.4/ALL), merged with HbbTV Forum**

**Decision:** Agree to recommend to TSB to implement a feature in the database to keep an historical record and remove the above organizations from the active webpage.

* 1. Delete the following entry as it has been merged into [**Broadband Forum**](http://www.broadband-forum.org/) **(A.4 & A.5/ALL)**:
     1. [**IP/MPLS Forum**](http://www.ipmplsforum.org) **(A.4 & A.5/ALL)  
        Note: No normative reference has been made to texts of the IP/MPLS Forum in ITU-T Recommendations.**

**Decision:** Same as above, together with ATM Forum (A.5) and DSL Forum (A.4).

* 1. Delete the following entries if the entities do not exist anymore:
     1. [**IPDR Organization**](http://www.ipdr.org) **(A.4/ALL)** (broken link), acquired by TM Forum
     2. [**MACCSA**](https://www.itu.int/en/ITU-T/extcoop/Pages/sdo.aspx) **(eval A.4/ALL)** (circular link, does it still exist?)
     3. [**Zerde**](http://en.zerde.gov.kz/content/history#/) (A.6**/ALL (SG13)**) (broken link), disbanded
     4. [**MMTA**](http://www.mmta.org.cn/english/aboutus.asp) **(A.4/ALL)** (broken link, does it still exist?)

**Decision:** The TSB will check in their records when the latest exchange of information with these organizations occurred. If no exchange of information has occurred for 4 years, the same action as in item 1.a above will be applied.  
The TSB will also check if the organizations under evaluation should be deleted, in particular if they have been under evaluation for a long time.

1. **Confirm the need to keep the following entities on the qualification list** as they seem to be marketing/communication/training commercial entities or user blog, which may not justify a qualification, keeping in mind that the qualification is not needed to exchange liaison statements with these entities:

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| TSAG [Report of the 7-11 Nov 2005 meeting](http://www.itu.int/md/T05-TSAG-R-0007/en): "The plenary noted that liaison statements can be exchanged with external bodies as necessary to progress work, subject to appropriate approvals. Qualification under Recommendations A.4, A.5 and A.6 is not a requirement. The concerned ITU-T group, however, should consider the criteria in those Recommendations when deciding whether or not to exchange liaisons statements with the external body."  [TD312 [2013-2016]](https://www.itu.int/md/T13-TSAG-150602-TD-GEN-0312/en): "TSB reported that Recs ITU-T A.4 and A.6 are not really necessary for study groups to collaborate with organizations, while existence of Recs ITU-T A.4 and A.6 does not prevent other organizations to collaborate with ITU-T." |

* + 1. [**CEPCA**](http://www.cepca.org) **(A.4/ALL)**
    2. [**MSF**](http://www.msforum.org) **(A.4/ALL)**
    3. [**UPA**](http://www.upaplc.org) **(A.4/ALL)**

**Decision**: The TSB will check in their records when the latest exchange of information with these organizations occurred. If no exchange of information has occurred for 4 years, the same action as in item 1.a above will be applied. For the remaining organizations, the TSB will, based on their records, develop the above abbreviations with the name of the organizations that they represent.

*Reviewed up to here at the ad hoc session on Thursday 1 June.*

1. **Confirm the need to keep a distinction between Recommendations ITU-T A.4 and A.6:**
   * There were essentially two differences:
     + Rec. ITU-T A.4 addresses "forums and consortia" while A.6 addresses "national or regional standards development organization".
     + Rec. ITU-T A.6 addresses the case of an organization accepting texts, in part or in whole, from another organization, which implies that this was allowed for national or regional standards development organization (as per A.6) and not allowed for forums and consortia covered in A.4.
   * The TSB provided the following feedback on the qualifying criteria:

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| [TD129 [2013-2016]](https://www.itu.int/md/meetingdoc.asp?lang=en&parent=T13-TSAG-140617-TD-GEN-0129): "These criteria are also difficult to evaluate because the purpose of Rec. ITU‑T A4 and A6 is not very clear; it would be helpful if the purpose and scope of Rec. ITU-T A.4 and A.6 could be clarified. As was already clarified by TSAG, the ITU-T A.4/A.6 qualification is not needed to communicate with external organizations." |

* + These distinctions do not exist anymore because Rec. ITU-T A.25 was created for the incorporation (in whole or in part) of text from other organization. Similarly to Rec. ITU-T A.5, Rec. ITU-T A.25 applies to all entities, be they forums, consortia, national or regional standards development organizations or other SDOs.

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| [TD312 [2013-2016]](https://www.itu.int/md/T13-TSAG-150602-TD-GEN-0312/en): "It is not useful to define or classify the type of organizations in Rec. ITU-T A.5; it is sufficient to just use the name of the organization." |

**Decision**: TBD

1. **If the decision for item 3 is "needed", confirm the need to keep the possibility to "incorporate texts" in Rec. ITU-T A.6:**
   * + Rec. ITU-T A.6 addresses the case of an organization accepting texts, in part or in whole, from another organization, which implies that this was allowed for national or regional standards development organization (as per A.6) and not allowed for forums and consortia covered in A.4.
     + Rec. ITU-T A.25 was created for the incorporation (in whole or in part) of text from other organization. Similarly to Rec. ITU-T A.5, Rec. ITU-T A.25 applies to all entities, be they forums, consortia, national or regional standards development organizations or other SDOs.

**Decision:** TBD

1. **If the decision for item 3 is "Not needed", assess whether organizations which are currently only A.4- or A.6-qualified but not A.5-qualified would have to be A5-qualified or do not need any qualification:**

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| **Forum/Consortium** | **Qualified** | | | **Related Study Groups** |
| **A.4** | **Decision:**  **A.5** | **A.6** |
| [**AIOTI**](https://aioti.eu/) | x |  |  | ALL (SG20) |
| [**CalConnect**](https://www.calconnect.org/) | x |  |  | SG2 |
| [**CEF**](http://www.cloudethernet.org/) | Eval |  |  | ALL |
| [**DMTF**](http://dmtf.org) |  |  | Eval | ALL(SG13) |
| [**Emerge Alliance**](http://www.emergealliance.org/Home.aspx) | Eval |  |  | ALL |
| [**GSM Association**](http://www.gsmworld.com) | x |  |  | ALL |
| [**INATBA**](https://inatba.org/) | x |  |  | ALL(SG16) |
| [**IPv6 Forum**](http://www.ipv6forum.com) | x |  |  | ALL |
| [**MACCSA**](https://www.itu.int/en/ITU-T/extcoop/Pages/sdo.aspx) | Eval |  |  | ALL |
| [**NRO**](http://www.nro.net) | x |  |  | ALL |
| [**SDL Forum Society**](http://www.sdl-forum.org) | x |  |  | ALL |
| [**The Green Grid**](http://thegreengrid.org) | Eval |  |  | ALL |

1. **If the decision for item 3 is "Not needed", choose one of the following options:**
   1. Withdraw Recs ITU-T A.4 and A.6 and only rely on Rec. ITU-T A.5.

**Decision:** TBD

* 1. Alternatively, create a new A-series Recommendation (A.x), by merging relevant information from Recs ITU-T A.4 and A.6, that will:
     1. Focus on the procedures to communicate with other organizations
     2. Include the information that communication via liaison statements with other organizations do not require these organizations to be qualified under A.4, A.5, A.6 or A.x.
     3. Clarify which qualification criteria from Rec. ITU-T A.5 would be need for purposes other than communication
     4. Reference Recs ITU-T A.5 (for referencing) and A.25 (for incorporating in part or in whole).
     5. Requalify A.4- or A.6-qualified organization that do not need to be A.5 qualified under that new A-x Recommendation.
     6. Assess whether organization which are currently only A.4- or A.6-qualified would have to be also A5-qualified.

**Decision:** TBD

* 1. Alternatively, withdraw Rec. ITU-T A.6 and:
     1. Keep A.5- and A.6-qualified organizations as A.5-qualified only;
     2. Requalify organizations that are only A.6-qualified as A.4-qualified;
     3. Modify Rec. ITU-T A.4 to replace "forums and consortia" by "standards development organizations".

**Decision:** TBD

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