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|  | INTERNATIONAL TELECOMMUNICATION UNION  **TELECOMMUNICATION STANDARDIZATION SECTOR**  STUDY PERIOD 2022-2024 | | | | TSAG-TD623 |
| TSAG |
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| **TD** | | | | | |
| **Source:** | | | Inter-Sector Coordination Group (ISCG), Chair | | |
| **Title:** | | | Report of the Inter-Sector Coordination Group on issues of mutual interest | | |
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| **Abstract:** | This document presents a progress report on the work of the Inter-Sector Coordination Group (ISCG) on issues of mutual interest, highlighting the conclusions from its last meeting on 21st May 2024. |

The Inter-Sector Coordination Group (ISCG) on issues of mutual interest, composed by representatives of the Radiocommunication Advisory Group (RAG), the Telecommunication Standardization Advisory Group (TSAG) and the Telecommunication Development Advisory Group (TDAG), works to identify subjects common to the three Sectors and the General Secretariat, and mechanisms to enhance cooperation and collaboration on matters of mutual interest, in order to avoid duplication of efforts and optimize the use of resources of the Union, in line with [Resolution 191 (Rev. Bucharest, 2022)](https://www.itu.int/en/council/Documents/basic-texts-2023/RES-191-E.pdf).

Since the last report presented to TSAG, the ISCG met twice, on 22 January 2024, in conjunction with the TSAG meeting, and on 21 May 2024, in conjunction with the Telecommunication Development Advisory Group (TDAG). Both meetings were held in Geneva, allowing remote participation.

The last meeting welcomed Mr Tarcisio Aurélio Bakaus (Brazil) and Mr Wako Gababo (Kenya) as the new representatives from the Radiocommunication Advisory Group (RAG), appointed following the Radiocommunications Assembly 2023 (RA-23) decisions. The report of that meeting, pending formal approval by the next ISCG meeting, is available as an Annex for TSAG’s consideration and comments.

Documents presented and discussed during the ISCG meetings can be access through the [ISCG webpage](https://www.itu.int/en/general-secretariat/Pages/ISCG/default.aspx).

The next meeting of the ISCG will be scheduled after WTSA-24, but before the end of 2024. Date to be confirmed after consultations with the ISCG Management Team. Detailed information will be posted on the [ITU Events portal](https://www.itu.int/en/events/Pages/default.aspx).

ANNEX

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| **Source:** | Chair of the ISCG | |
| **Title:** | Report of the Inter-Sector Coordination Group on issues of mutual interest | |
| **Purpose:** | Admin (X) / Information ( ) / Discussion ( ) / Proposal ( ) | |
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1. **Introduction**

The second meeting of the Inter-Sector Coordination Group (ISCG) on issues of mutual interest in 2024, took place on 21st May 2024, at ITU Headquarters, from 12:45 to 14:15 (CET). The meeting allowed remote participation and captioning through the Zoom platform.

The meeting was chaired by Mr Fabio Bigi (Italy), who welcomed the members of the group and specially thanked the Chair of the Telecommunication Development Advisory Group (TDAG), Ms Roxanne McElvane Webber, for agreeing to convene this meeting in conjunction with the TDAG meeting. Mr. Bigi also welcomed the recently appointed representatives from the Radiocommunication Advisory Group (RAG), Mr Tarcisio Aurélio Bakaus (Brazil) and Mr Wako Gababo (Kenia); as well as the TSAG and TDAG representatives attending the meeting.

Mr Bigi welcomed the ITU Deputy Secretary-General, Mr Tomas Lamanauskas, and invited him to deliver opening remarks. The Deputy Secretary-General highlighted the importance of strengthening the link with the different advisory groups and informed that the Inter-Sectoral Coordination Task Force (ISC-TF) had met in advance to go through the ISCG’s meeting agenda for secretariat’s Focal Points to be prepared to support the members during its discussions. Mr Lamanauskas also mentioned that the secretariat has been working to prepare the Council 2024 session (4-14 June 2024) so many of the topics of interest to the ISCG are being reported on Council documents, already available online.

Before presenting the Agenda, the ISCG Chair reiterated that the Terms of Reference of the group needs to be updated. Then the meeting approved the Agenda as presented on document [ISCG/24-2/01-R2](https://www.itu.int/en/general-secretariat/ties/ISCGDocumentLibrary/2nd%20Meeting%202024/ISCG-24-2-01-Agenda-R2.docx).

The Chair requested the secretariat to present the final report of the ISCG meeting held on 24 January 2024, for formal approval. There were no comments received. Document [ISCG/24-2/02](https://www.itu.int/en/general-secretariat/ties/ISCGDocumentLibrary/2nd%20Meeting%202024/ISCG-24-2-02-1st%20Meeting%202024-Final%20Report.docx) was approved.

Documents presented and discussed during the meeting, including the Agenda and the list of participants (see [here](https://www.itu.int/en/general-secretariat/ties/ISCGDocumentLibrary/2nd%20Meeting%202024/List%20of%20Participants.docx)), can be access through the [ISCG webpage](https://www.itu.int/en/general-secretariat/Pages/ISCG/default.aspx).

1. **Main discussions**

**2.1 Report on the implementation of PP-Resolution 191 (Rev. Bucharest, 2022)**

The ITU secretariat presented the updates since the last meeting (see presentation [here](https://www.itu.int/en/general-secretariat/ties/ISCGDocumentLibrary/2nd%20Meeting%202024/ISCG-2nd%20Meeting%202024-Secretariat%20presentation.pptx)). The presentation contains the links to the Council documents on the implementation of Resolution 191 (Rev. Bucharest, 2022) as well as to the reports on Accessibility, Climate change, Remote participation and the ITU website, all topics of special interest to the ISCG.

The mapping of resolutions has been updated, reflecting outcomes of the Radio Assembly (RA-23) and the World Radiocommunication Conference (WRC-23) that took place by the end of 2023.

A list of follow-up actions coming from the last ISCG meeting was presented for members to see the completion of tasks assigned to the secretariat.

ISCG members reiterated the importance of making the ISCG work and meetings more visible on the ITU website, and of remote participation and captioning in all meetings. The Accessibility Coordinator also mentioned that real-time human captioning is recommended over the automatic option provided by Zoom, as the recordings and stream text is important specially for people with disabilities either for watching and/or hearing.

The Chair welcomed all comments and requested the secretariat to provide more information related to the use of human captioning for the next meeting, taking into account the financial implications of adding this service for all meetings.

**2.2 Reports from the Sectors’ advisory groups**

**2.2.1 Radiocommunication Advisory Group (RAG)**

The representative of RAG presented an oral report on the outcomes of the RAG's thirty-first meeting, held from March 25 to 27, 2024.

On updates from the ITU-R Study Groups, there is an urgent need to revise the ITU Satellite Handbook. Study Group 4 and other groups have been mobilized to ensure that the guidelines and documents reflect the latest technological and operational practices.

Regarding improvements to Information Systems managed by the BR, these have enhanced support for both terrestrial and space service management. There were discussions on significant upgrades to the eCommunications and eSubmissions platforms, aimed at better integration and reliability, which are crucial for the international frequency management operations.

In preparation for WRC-27, reviews on how ready to handle complex spectrum management issues. This important work is essential for the success of the global spectrum management plans.

On intersectoral activities, the RAG has responded to the liaison statement from TSAG concerning Sustainable Digital Transformation (SDT). This underscores the ongoing commitment to harmonizing actions across ITU sectors and ensuring that digital transformation supports broader goals of accessibility and sustainability. For further inquiries regarding this initiative, please reach out to Mr Andy Quested, who is the Focal Point for this specific liaison response.

Furthermore, the RAG acknowledged the report from the Chair of the ISCG (Doc. RAG/6), which outlined SDT activities across the Union. This report reinforced the importance of incorporating these themes into the ISCG's mandate to ensure a coordinated and effective approach. The RAG concurs with the recommendations and looks forward to continuing our collaborative efforts to integrate these essential strategies within the framework of ITU sectors.

Related to Remote Participation, it has become even more important, as shown by the discussions on making it easier to access meeting platforms like Zoom. These improvements are essential for making sure everyone can join our global discussions.

Climate Change was a recurring theme, with a focus on the telecommunications sector's role in mitigating environmental impacts. This aligns with the broader discussions on sustainability. It was highlighted that ITU-R Study Group 7 (SG 7), responsible for space operation, space research, Earth-exploration, and meteorological satellite systems within ITU-R, is discussing the theme of Global Environmental Monitoring, which includes atmospheric, oceanic, land surface, and biomass monitoring, and Weather Forecasting and Climate Change Monitoring and Prediction, focusing on developing technologies and methodologies for better prediction and monitoring of climate change.

Regarding the ITU Website enhancements, the aim is to make information more accessible by providing content in all six official languages, using advanced translation tools to break down language barriers.

In terms of Outreach and Capacity-building Efforts, there has been a push to enhance ITU-R’s training and seminar programs, especially for non-geostationary satellite orbit (non-GSO) systems. These initiatives are essential for preparing our members to handle emerging technologies and stay informed on regulatory and technical standards.

In conclusion, the thirty-first meeting of RAG marked significant strides in addressing both the technical and procedural challenges of modern radiocommunication. Reaffirming the commitment to a more accessible, sustainable, and equitable future in global spectrum management.

RAG also confirmed Mr Andy Quested as its Focal Point for Accessibility, Climate change and Sustainable Digital Transformation. Mr Quested informed work started on reducing power in televisions worldwide; and, together with ITU-T, to get some standardization around streaming. Detailed information can be submitted for the next meeting.

**2.2.2 Telecommunication Standardization Advisory Group (TSAG)**

The representative of TSAG confirmed the collaboration with the ITU-R sector on matters related to Climate change. Reported on the preparations of the World Telecommunication Standardization Assembly (WTSA-24) taking place in October this year, where one of the main discussions will be on the new structure for the ITU-T Study Groups, with the possibility to merge SG 9 and SG 16.

Another important topic are the discussions taking place in TSAG related to industry engagement where workshops have been organized to discuss the future of Internet of Things (IoT). Acknowledging this same discussion on industry engagement is taking place also in TDAG, the TSAG representative proposed that “Industry engagement” should be a theme for consideration of the ISCG.

The TSAG representative also informed their next meeting will be end of July/beginning of August 2024.

A Liaison Statement on the draft analysis of operational parts of conferences/assemblies/Council resolutions was sent to the ISCG for information (see [TSAG-LS00042](https://www.itu.int/en/general-secretariat/ties/ISCGDocumentLibrary/2nd%20Meeting%202024/ISCG-24-2-LSo-TSAG%20Streamlining%20Res.docx)). The ISCG agreed to send a response to TSAG, as well as to share the work with the other two Sectors’ advisory groups, highlighting the importance of streamlining resolutions ITU-wide, to avoid the duplication of operational parts (resolves, instructs, etc.) especially when it comes to Sectors’ resolutions that already have an operational part on a Plenipotentiary Conference (PP) Resolution.

The ISCG instructed the secretariat to prepare a LSo to be sent to the three Sectors’ advisory groups (see document [ISCG-24-2-LSo-TSAG](https://www.itu.int/en/general-secretariat/ties/ISCGDocumentLibrary/2nd%20Meeting%202024/ISCG-24-2-LSo-TSAG%20Streamlining%20Res.docx)).

* + 1. **Telecommunication Development Advisory Group (TDAG)**

The TDAG Chair informed that, on 20-23 May, TDAG was holding its annual meeting to discuss, among other things, on the implementation of the Kigali Action Plan and on preparations for the World Telecommunication Development Conference (WTDC-25) to be celebrated next year.

It was informed that TDAG also created a group dedicated to streamlining resolutions, and other on the future of study groups questions and on priorities and the Strategic Plan. And informal coordination group will be working on preparations for the Youth Summit.

The TDAG Chair also suggested new themes to be considered by the ISCG, such as: Capacity building activities, Innovation and Entrepreneur alliance, and agreed on Sustainable Digital Transformation as a theme that calls for inter-sectoral coordination.

The ISCG thanked the presentation and agreed on the themes proposed. The ISCG Chair also added the theme ‘Industry engagement’, as suggested by TSAG, to the list of possible topics of interest to the three Sectors.

* 1. **Reports by themes**

**2.3.1 Accessibility**

No report was submitted to the meeting. The Accessibility Coordinator reiterated the importance of having human captioning in ITU meetings and as already agreed, the ISCG Chair instructed the secretariat to present a report on the subject to the next meeting.

The ITU secretariat’s report on Accessibility can be found on Council document [C24/35](https://www.itu.int/md/S24-CL-C-0035/en).

**2.3.2 Climate change**

No report was submitted to the meeting.

The ITU secretariat’s report on Climate change can be found on Council document [C24/72](https://www.itu.int/md/S24-CL-C-0072/en) and the report on the implementation of Resolution 182 (Rev. Bucharest, 2022) on the web platform [here](https://www.itu.int/net4/Search/CL24/Main/Reader).

**2.3.3 Virtual meetings / Remote participation**

The Coordinator for these theme, as noted earlier in the meeting, confirmed there will be a document presented to the Council 2024 Session on Remote participation related to the rights of remote participants (see document [C24/61](https://www.itu.int/md/S24-CL-C-0061/en)). The results of the discussion at Council will indicate what steps are required next, and how it impacts current text e.g. Supplement 4 to the A series of ITU-T Recommendations.

The consideration of the rights of participants does not address the organisation associated with remote participation, and the impact of remote participation upon organisation of meetings will require further consideration.

The ISCG proposed the outcomes of Council 2024 on this theme should be shared with the three Sectors for information and to avoid duplication of efforts on this matter. The Chair tasked the Coordinator for Remote participation to consolidate the information to be shared.

**2.3.4 ITU website**

The ITU secretariat’s Focal Point informed that a detailed roadmap to improve the ITU website will be presented to Council in June (see document [C24/53](https://www.itu.int/md/S24-CL-C-0053/en)).

**2.3.5 Possible Future Themes**

There were two contributions submitted on ‘Sustainable Digital Transformation’ (SDT) proposed as a new theme that calls for intersectoral coordination.

The representative of RAG presented its contribution, document [ISCG/24-2/03](https://www.itu.int/en/general-secretariat/ties/ISCGDocumentLibrary/2nd%20Meeting%202024/ISCG-24-2-03-ITU-R%20activities%20on%20sustainable%20digital%20transformation.docx), on the ITU-R activities and studies on SDT. The document replies to a TSAG Liaison Statement requesting information on the work carried out by ITU-R and ITU-D on the subject.

The Russian Federation presented its contribution, document [ISCG/24-2-04](https://www.itu.int/en/general-secretariat/ties/ISCGDocumentLibrary/2nd%20Meeting%202024/ISCG-24-2-04-New%20theme%20of%20mutual%20interest.docx), containing a proposal to discuss and coordinate the theme SDT at an intersectoral level within the ISCG.

Being a common understanding that SDT requires intersectoral coordination, the ISCG Chair requested TDAG to propose a Coordinator for the theme.

The TDAG Chair agreed and informed she would come back later with a proposed name, before TDAG concludes.

The RAG representative added that the IRG-AVA Terms of Reference might need to be updated to be align with and contribute to this work.

1. **Mapping Tables**

The ITU-D Focal Point for this matter, presented Table 1 (mapping ITU-D Study Groups and ITU-R Working Parties) for approval (see document [ISCG/24-2/05](https://www.itu.int/en/general-secretariat/ties/ISCGDocumentLibrary/2nd%20Meeting%202024/ISCG-24-2-05-Draft%20Mapping%20Table%201-ITU-D%20to%20ITU-R%20Working%20Parties.docx)).

The meeting agreed to circulate the draft table with BR’s Councellors for final review before posting.

The ITU secretariat informed that all mapping tables, including the Mapping of Resolutions, are available on the [ISCG website](https://www.itu.int/en/general-secretariat/Pages/ISCG/default.aspx#gsc.tab=0).

1. **Future activities**

The ISCG will present a report to the TDAG meeting taking place in parallel, and to TSAG’s meeting in July/August 2024.

The ISCG decided to convene the next meeting after WTSA-24, but before the end of 2024. Date to be confirmed after consultations with the ISCG Management Team.

1. **Any other business**

A Liaison Statement (see [CWG-FHR-LS-DT3-R1](https://www.itu.int/en/general-secretariat/ties/ISCGDocumentLibrary/2nd%20Meeting%202024/CWG-FHR-LS-DT3-R1-Criteria%20for%20establishing%20future%20Area%20Offices.docx)) was received from the Council Working Group on Financial and Human Resources (CWG-FHR) requesting the ISCG to provide comments on the criteria for establishing future Area Offices.

The Chair of the ISCG requested the secretariat to convey an online consultation for the ISCG members to submit their views.

All comments received will be compiled into a Liaison Statement to respond to the CWG-FHR.

1. **Closure of the meeting**

Mr Fabio Bigi, Chair of the ISCG, thanked the Chair of TDAG for attending the meeting, as well as the representatives from the three Sectors, and all the participants for their support.

The Chair also thanked the Deputy Secretary-General for his active participation and support and extended his appreciation to the Secretariat for the assistance in preparing the meeting.

**Note from the ISCG Chair:**

The ISCG Chair would like to inform the report of the meeting held in January and an oral report of this meeting was presented to TDAG on 23 May 2024.

TDAG welcomed the report and endorsed Ms Blanca Gonzalez (Spain) and Ms Shahad Albalawi (Saudi Arabia) as coordinators to the ISCG on the topic of Sustainable digital transformation.

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