|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
|  | World Telecommunication Standardization Assembly (WTSA-24)New Delhi, 15–24 October 2024 |  |
|  |
|  |  |
| PLENARY MEETING | Addendum 2 toDocument 35-E |
|  | 13 September 2024 |
|  | Original: English |
|  |
| African Telecommunication Union Administrations |
| PROPOSED MODIFICATIONS TO RESOLUTION 2 |
|  |
|  |

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Abstract:** | This contribution proposes a revision of WTSA Resolution 2 (Rev. Geneva, 2022), more specifically a revision of Annexes A and B on the mandate of Study Group 5.It proposes the addition of the term “e-waste” to the study group's title, to address this phenomenon more effectively in the work of the group, and to instruct the group to study methods of reducing the environmental impacts of e-waste.A few editorial changes have also been made. |
| **Contact:** | Isaac BoatengAfrican Telecommunication Union | E-mail: i.boateng@atuuat.africa |

Proposal

The aim is to prioritize the assessment and impact of e-waste on the environment in the context of the United Nations 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the Paris Agreement, and to encourage the development of new recommendations for the management of e-waste, which is constantly growing in the face of the advance of ICTs and the omnipresence of connected devices and ICT tools in the daily lives of the world's citizens; and given that in PART 2 of Annex A “ITU-T GUIDING STUDY-GROUPS BY FIELD OF STUDY” of the said resolution it is mentioned that study group 5 is:

- Lead study group for the circular economy and management of waste electrical and electronic equipment;

- Lead study group for ICT in relation to the environment, energy efficiency, clean energy and the sustainable transition to all-digital technology to combat climate change.

This measure is designed to encourage a rapid response to the development and impact of e-waste on the environment.

MOD ATU/35A2/1

RESOLUTION 2 (Rev. New Delhi, 2024)

Scope and mandate of the ITU telecommunication standardization sector study groups

(Helsinki, 1993; Geneva, 1996; Montreal, 2000; Florianópolis, 2004;Johannesburg, 2008; 2009; Dubai, 2012; 2015; 2016; Hammamet, 2016; Geneva, 2022; New Delhi, 2024)

The World Telecommunication Standardization Assembly (New Delhi, 2024),

...

Annex A
(to Resolution 2 (Rev. New Delhi, 2024))

Part 1 – General areas of study

...

ITU‑T Study Group 5

#### Electromagnetic fields, the environment, electrical and electronic equipment waste, the fight against climate action, sustainable digital switchover and the circular economy

ITU‑T Study Group 5 is responsible for developing standards on the environmental aspects of ICT and digital technologies, as well as on environmental protection, including electromagnetic phenomena and climate change.

Study Group 5 will examine how digital transformation can be led to ensure that it contributes to a transition towards more sustainable societies.

Study Group 5 will also investigate issues relating to immunity, human exposure to electromagnetic fields, the circular economy, energy efficiency and climate‑change adaptation and mitigation. It will develop international standards, guidelines, technical documents and assessment frameworks that support the sustainable use and deployment of ICT and digital technologies and assess the environmental impacts, including biodiversity, of digital technologies such as5G, artificial intelligence (AI), smart manufacturing and automation, etc.

Study Group 5 is also responsible for investigating methodologies and design frameworks aimed at reducing the volume and adverse environmental impacts of waste electrical and electronic equipment, and supporting the transition to a circular economy.

Study Group 5 plays an important role in the assessment of the role of ICT in accelerating the implementation of climate change adaptation and mitigation measures, particularly in business sectors (including the ICT sector), cities, rural areas and communities. To this end, it is also conducting work on the development of standards and guidelines for building resilient ICT infrastructures in rural areas and communities, as well as on the development of methods for the assessment of the ICT sector's pathway with regard to the United Nations 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the Paris Agreement.

...

Annex B
(of Resolution 2 (Rev. New Delhi, 2024))

ITU‑T study group guidelines for the development
of the post-2022 work programme

...

ITU‑T Study Group 5

ITU‑T Study Group 5 will develop recommendations, supplements and other publications aimed at:

• study the environmental performance of ICT and digital technologies and their influence on climate change, biodiversity and other environmental impacts;

• speed up the implementation of climate change mitigation and adaptation measures through the use of ICTs and other digital technologies;

• study the environmental aspects of ICT and digital technologies, including issues relating to electromagnetic fields, electromagnetic compatibility, power supply, energy efficiency and immunity, and methods of reducing environmental impacts;

• play an active role in reducing the volume of waste electrical and electronic equipment and simplifying its management, to support the transition to a circular economy;

• explore a life-cycle approach to the recycling of metals for ICT equipment to minimize the environmental and health impact of waste electrical and electronic equipments;

• achieve energy efficiency and ensure the sustainable clean energy in ICT and digital technologies, including, but not limited to, labelling contracting practices, power supply devices/standardized connectorsor energy-saving systems;

• build resilient and sustainable ICT infrastructures in urban and rural areas as well as in cities and communities;

• study the role of ICTs and digital technologies in climate-change adaptation and mitigation;

• study the methods to reduce the volume of electrical and electronic equipment waste and its impact on the environment (including the environmental impact of counterfeit devices) and propose guidelines;

• study the transition to a circular economy and implement circular economy measures in cities;

• study the role of ICT and digital technologies in achieving carbon neutrality in the ICT sector and other sectors, as well as in cities;

• develop methodologies for assessing the impacts of ICT and other digital technologies on the environment;

• develop standards and guidelines for the eco-friendly use of ICT and other digital technologies, and forenhancing the recycling of rare metals and the energy efficiency of ICT, including infrastructure/facilities;

• develop standards, guidelines and measurement tools/key performance indicators (KPIs) to ensure that the environmental performance of the ICT and digital technologies sector with the UN 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, the Paris Agreement and the Connect 2030 Agenda;

• develop measurement tools/key performance indicators for energy efficiency/performance and related measurement methods for ICT and digital technologies, as well as infrastructure and facilities;

• develop tools and guidance on appropriate, effective and simple communication to sensitize the general public to environmental issues, including  electromagnetic fields, electromagnetic compatibility, climate change immunity/adaptation and mitigation;

• study methods for assessing the environmental impact of ICTs, both in terms of the emissions they produce and their power consumption, and in terms of the savings achieved through ICT applications in other sectors of activity;

• study methodologies to effectively reduce power consumption and resource use in power systems, reinforce safety and improve global standardization to achieve efficiency gains;

• build a sustainable, low-cost ICT infrastructure to connect those who are not yet connected;

• explore how ICTs can be used to support countries and the ICT sector in adapting and building resilience to the impacts of environmental challenges, including climate change;

• assess the impact of ICTs on sustainable development, to help achieve the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs);

• study the protection of ICT networks and equipments against from interference, lightning and power failures;

• develop standards for the assessment of human exposure to electromagnetic fields generated by ICT installations and devices;

• develop standards on the safety and implementation aspects of ICT power supply and power supply by networks and sites;

• develop standards on application elements and references for the protection of ICT equipment and the telecommunication network;

• develop standards on electromagnetic compatibility, the effects of particle radiation and the assessment of human exposure to electromagnetic fields produced by ICT installations and devices, including cell phones, IoT devices and radio base stations;

• develop standards for the reuse of existing outdoor metallic network facilities and associated indoor facilities;

• develop standards to ensure high reliability and low latency for broadband network services, by defining immunity and electromagnetic compatibility requirements.

As much as possible, the meetings of Study Group 5 and its working groups/issues should be held in parallel with those of other study groups/working groups/issues involved in the study of the environment, circular economy, energy efficiency and climate change, from the perspective of the SDGs.

...