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|  | World Telecommunication Standardization Assembly (WTSA-24) New Delhi, 15–24 October 2024 | |  |
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| PLENARY MEETING | | Addendum 6 to Document 35-E | |
|  | | 13 September 2024 | |
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| African Telecommunication Union Administrations | | | |
| PROPOSED MODIFICATIONS TO RESOLUTION 32 | | | |
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| **Abstract:** | ATU proposes to modify WTSA Resolution 32, to make it more neutral with regard to different technologies.  The contribution proposes to instruct the Director of TSB to guarantee that, at least, real-time webcast services will be provided to all the meetings during the WTSA in order to allow online participants to follow the discussions.  It also proposes that online participants will be enabled to actively participate in decision-making, not only for standardization processes, TSAG and study groups, but also for focus groups and other ITU-T groups. | |
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Introduction

Resolutions should be technology neutral as much as possible.

This contribution aims to guarantee that, at least, real-time webcast services will be provided to all the meetings during the WTSA in order to allow online participants to follow the discussions and then, they may exchange messages/emails with the in-person participants from their country or their region through other platforms and provide them with their comments and observations if any. In fact, there is no paragraph in this resolution that is related to the provision of remote access during WTSA and it should be preferable to guarantee that, at least, online participants will have the opportunity to follow the meeting even without having the right the take the floor and to intervene directly.

Another objective of this contribution is to emphasize the fact that online participants should be enabled to actively participate in decision-making, not only for standardization processes, TSAG, study groups, but also for focus groups, which discuss pre-standards documents, and other ITU-T groups, knowing that the list of ITU-T groups includes also regional groups, Joint Coordination Activities, Standardization Committee for Vocabulary, etc.

MOD ATU/35A6/1

RESOLUTION 32 (Rev. New Delhi, 2024)

Strengthening electronic working methods for the work of the ITU Telecommunication Standardization Sector

(Montreal, 2000; Florianópolis, 2004; Johannesburg, 2008; Dubai, 2012; Hammamet, 2016; New Delhi, 2024)

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

considering

*a)* the rapid pace of technology change and the consequent need for improved and more rapid standards development;

*b)* that electronic working methods (EWM) enable open, rapid and easy collaboration between participants in the activities of the ITU Telecommunication Standardization Sector (ITU‑T);

*c)* that the implementation of EWM capabilities and associated arrangements will have significant benefits for the ITU‑T membership, including resource-limited individuals, organizations and states, by allowing them timely and effective access to standards information and the standards-making and approval process;

*d)* that EWM will be advantageous in improving communication among members of ITU‑T and between other relevant standardization organizations and ITU, towards globally harmonized standards;

*e)* the key role of the Telecommunication Standardization Bureau (TSB) in providing support to EWM capabilities;

*f)* the decisions contained in Resolution 66 (Rev. Guadalajara, 2010) of the Plenipotentiary Conference;

*g)* the budgetary difficulty developing countries[[1]](#footnote-1)1 have in participating actively in face-to-face ITU‑T meetings;

*h)* Resolution 167 (Rev. Bucharest, 2022) of the Plenipotentiary Conference strengthening and developing ITU capabilities for fully virtual meetings and physical meetings with remote participation, and the electronic means to advance the work of the Union,

noting

*a)* the desire of members to receive documents in electronic format in a timely manner and the need to reduce the increasing amount of hard copy documentation generated during meetings and dispatched by mail;

*b)* that many forms of EWM have already been implemented by ITU‑T, such as electronic document submission and the electronic forum service;

*c)* that there are still some difficulties in conducting e‑meetings, due to persistent or intermittent deterioration in quality of service, in particular in meetings with live interpretation;

*d)* the desire of ITU‑T members to conduct electronic meetings;

*e)* the increasing use of mobile devices by members in meetings and elsewhere;

*f)* the advantage to the membership of facilitating greater electronic participation in the development and approval of Recommendations, in particular by members unable to participate in study group meetings in Geneva and elsewhere;

*g)* the difficulties in terms of bandwidth availability and other constraints, particularly in developing countries;

*h)* the difficulties in searching for documents and/or information relevant to a specific subject, topic or issue, and the need for a smart solution for classification and easy mining of such documents and/or information;

*i)* the economies possible from enhancing ITU‑T EWM capabilities (e.g. reduced costs for distribution of paper documentation, travel costs, ITU‑T logistics costs, etc.);

*j)* the encouragement by other telecommunication standardization organizations of collaboration using EWM;

*k)* that the alternative approval process (AAP) (Recommendation ITU‑T A.8) is conducted primarily by electronic means,

resolves

1 that the principal EWM objectives of ITU‑T are:

• that collaboration between members on development of Recommendations should be by electronic means;

• that TSB, in close collaboration with the ITU Telecommunication Development Bureau (BDT), should provide facilities and capabilities for EWM at ITU‑T meetings, workshops and training courses, particularly to assist developing countries that have bandwidth limitations and other constraints, including remote participation and electronic access, such as via secured and available open sources -based platforms;

• to encourage electronic participation of developing countries in ITU‑T meetings, by providing simplified facilities and guidelines, and by waiving any expenses for those participants, other than the local call or Internet connectivity charges;

• that TSB, in close collaboration with BDT, should provide facilities and capabilities for EWM at ITU‑T meetings, workshops and training courses, and encourage participation of developing countries, by waiving, within the credits that the Council is empowered to authorize, any expenses for those participants, other than the local call or Internet connectivity charges;

• that TSB should provide all members of ITU‑T with appropriate and ready access to electronic documentation for their work, including a global, unified and consolidated view of document traceability;

• that TSB should provide appropriate systems and facilities to support the conduct of ITU‑T's work by electronic means, ensuring accessibility for developing countries;

• that all activities, procedures, studies and reports of ITU‑T study groups be posted on the ITU‑T website so as to facilitate navigation to find all relevant information;

• to consider developing a mobile‑friendly version of the ITU‑T website to facilitate easy access by smart mobile devices to information; and

• to simplify and facilitate enhanced searching for documents and/or information;

2 that these objectives should be systematically addressed in an EWM Action Plan, including individual action items identified by the ITU‑T membership or TSB, and prioritized and managed by TSB with the advice of the Telecommunication Standardization Advisory Group (TSAG),

instructs

1 the Director of TSB to:

• maintain the EWM Action Plan to address the practical and physical aspects of increasing the EWM capability of ITU‑T;

• identify and review costs and benefits of the action items on a regular basis;

• report to each meeting of TSAG on the status of the Action Plan, including the results of the cost and benefit reviews described above;

• provide the executive authority, budget within TSB, and resources to execute the Action Plan with all possible speed;

• develop and disseminate guidelines for the use of ITU‑T EWM facilities and capabilities;

• ensure that, as a minimum requirement, real-time webcast services are provided for all meetings during WTSA to allow online participants to follow the discussions;

• take action, in order to provide appropriate electronic participation or observation facilities (e.g. webcast, audioconference, webconference/document sharing, videoconference, etc.) in ITU‑T meetings, workshops and training courses for delegates unable to attend events in person, enabling online participants to actively participate in decision-making for standardization processes, TSAG, study groups, focus groups and other ITU-T groups and coordinate with BDT to assist in the provision of such facilities;

• provide an ITU‑T website that is easy to navigate to find all relevant information; and in particular a classification mechanism and an enhanced search engine to extract documents and/or information that are related to a specific subject, topic or issue; and

• provide a mobile‑friendly version of the ITU‑T website;

2 TSAG to continue to:

• act as the point of contact between the ITU‑T membership and TSB on EWM matters, in particular providing feedback and advice on the contents, prioritization and implementation of the Action Plan;

• identify user needs and plan the introduction of suitable measures through appropriate subgroups and pilot programmes;

• request study group chairmen to identify EWM liaisons;

• encourage participation by all participants in the work of ITU‑T, especially EWM experts from TSAG, the study groups, TSB and appropriate ITU Bureaux and departments;

• continue its work electronically outside TSAG meetings as necessary to carry out its objectives.

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