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| PROPOSED MODIFICATION TO RESOLUTION 67 |
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| **Abstract:** | This document contains the APT common proposal for modifications to WTSA Resolution 67, "Use in the ITU Telecommunication Standardization Sector of the languages of the Union on an equal footing and the Standardization Committee for Vocabulary". The revisions aim to strengthen language-related provisions within ITU-T, emphasizing the importance of linguistic diversity, equitable language treatment, and effective language support services. The proposed changes provide clear instructions to enhance language-related activities and support services within ITU-T, encourage Member States to contribute to linguistic diversity promotion, and empower TSAG to advance language-related objectives. |
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Introduction

Language plays a crucial role in facilitating effective communication and collaboration within ITU‑T. WTSA Resolution 67 addresses the use of languages within ITU-T, ensuring equitable treatment and effective language support services. However, in light of evolving telecommunication standardization efforts and the increasing importance of linguistic diversity, it becomes necessary to revise and strengthen the provisions of this resolution.

The proposed revisions aim to enhance language-related provisions within ITU-T, emphasizing the promotion of linguistic diversity, consistency, and effectiveness in standardization activities. By providing clear instructions to TSB, encouraging active participation from Member States, and empowering TSAG to play a proactive role, these modifications seek to improve language support services and standardization efforts within ITU-T.

Enhanced Language-Related Activities and Support Services

This revision provides clear instructions to the Director of the Telecommunication Standardization Bureau on enhancing language-related activities and support services within ITU-T. It emphasizes the importance of linguistic diversity, consistency, and effectiveness in telecommunication standardization efforts. The Director of TSB is encouraged to allocate adequate resources and implement strategies to improve language support services, including translation, interpretation, and language training initiatives.

Promotion of Linguistic Diversity by Member States

This revision encourages Member States to actively contribute to the promotion of linguistic diversity and language support services within ITU-T. Member States are urged to collaborate with ITU-T and other stakeholders to develop language-related policies, initiatives, and capacity-building programmes. By fostering collaboration, knowledge sharing, and capacity building, Member States can contribute to the effective utilization of languages within ITU-T standardization activities.

Empowerment of Telecommunication Standardization Advisory Group (TSAG)

This revision empowers the Telecommunication Standardization Advisory Group to play a proactive role in advancing language-related objectives within ITU-T. TSAG is encouraged to promote collaboration, oversight, and continuous improvement in language support services and standardization efforts. By actively engaging with language-related issues, TSAG can contribute to the enhancement of language diversity and effectiveness within ITU-T.

These proposed modifications aim to strengthen language-related provisions within WTSA Resolution 67, promoting linguistic diversity, equitable language treatment, and effective language support services within ITU-T. By implementing these revisions, ITU-T can better address the linguistic needs of its diverse membership and enhance the effectiveness of telecommunication standardization efforts on a global scale.

Proposal

APT Member Administrations propose to modify WTSA Resolution 67 on “Use in the ITU Telecommunication Standardization Sector of the languages of the Union on an equal footing and the Standardization Committee for Vocabulary”.

MOD APT/37A18/1

RESOLUTION 67 (Rev. New Delhi, 2024)

Use in the ITU Telecommunication Standardization Sector of
the languages of the Union on an equal footing and the Standardization Committee for Vocabulary

(Johannesburg, 2008; Dubai, 2012; Hammamet, 2016; Geneva, 2022; New Delhi, 2024)

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

recognizing

*a)* the adoption by the Plenipotentiary Conference of Resolution 154 (Rev. Bucharest, 2022), on the use of the six official languages of the Union on an equal footing, which instructs the ITU Council and the ITU General Secretariat on how to achieve equal treatment of the six languages and which appreciated the work accomplished by the ITU Coordination Committee for Terminology (ITU CCT) on the adoption and agreement of terms and definitions in the field of telecommunications/information and communication technologies in all the official languages of the Union;

*b)* Resolution 1386, adopted by the Council at its 2017 session, on ITU CCT, which consists of the Coordination Committee for Vocabulary (CCV) of the ITU Radiocommunication Sector (ITU-R) and the Standardization Committee for Vocabulary (SCV) of the ITU Telecommunication Standardization Sector (ITU-T) functioning in accordance with the relevant resolutions of the Radiocommunication Assembly and the World Telecommunication Standardization Assembly (WTSA), respectively, and representatives of ITU Telecommunication Development Sector (ITU‑D), in close collaboration with the secretariat;

*c)* Resolution 1 (Rev. Geneva, 2022) of this assembly, on ITU-T rules of procedure;

*d)* the decisions of the Council centralizing the editing functions for languages in the General Secretariat (Conferences and Publications Department), calling upon the Sectors to provide the final texts in English only (this applies also to terms and definitions),

considering

*a)* that under Resolution 154 (Rev. Bucharest, 2022), the Council is instructed to continue the work of the Council Working Group on Languages, in order to monitor progress and report to the Council on the implementation of that resolution;

*b)* the importance of providing information in all the official languages of the Union on an equal footing on ITU‑T webpages,

*c)* that Council Resolution 1386 considers the importance of collaborating with other interested organizations about terms and definitions, symbols and other means of expression, units of measurement, etc., with the objective of standardizing such elements;

*d)* the difficulty of achieving agreement on definitions when more than one ITU study group is involved,

noting

*a)* that SCV was established in accordance with Resolution 67 (Johannesburg, 2008) of WTSA, on the initiation of SCV;

*b)* that SCV is a part of the joint ITU CCT in accordance with Council Resolution 1386,

resolves

1 that the ITU‑T study groups, within their terms of reference, should continue their work on technical and operational terms and their definitions in English only;

2 that the work of standardizing vocabulary within ITU‑T shall be based on the proposals made by the study groups in the English language, with the consideration and adoption of the translation into the other official languages as proposed by the General Secretariat, and that this shall be ensured by ITU CCT, which is composed of experts fluent in the official languages from all ITU Sectors, and persons designated by interested organizations and other participants in the work of ITU, in close collaboration with the General Secretariat and the Telecommunication Standardization Bureau (TSB) editor for the English language;

3 that, when proposing terms and definitions, the ITU‑T study groups shall use the guidelines given in Annex B to the "Author's guide for drafting ITU‑T Recommendations";

4 that, where more than one ITU‑T study group is defining the same terms and/or concept, efforts should be made to select a single term and a single definition which is acceptable to all of the ITU‑T study groups concerned;

5 that, when selecting terms and preparing definitions, the ITU‑T study groups shall take into account the established use of terms and existing definitions in ITU, in particular those appearing in the online ITU Terms and Definitions database;

6 that TSB should collect all new terms and definitions which are proposed by the ITU study groups in consultation with ITU CCT, enter them in the online ITU Terms and Definitions database, and provide a search mechanism based on time ranges;

7 that the chairman and six vice-chairmen of SCV, each representing one of the official languages, should be nominated by WTSA;

8 that each study group should appoint a Vocabulary Rapporteur to coordinate efforts regarding terms and definitions and related subjects and to act as a SCV contact person for the study group;

9 that the terms of reference of SCV are given in the annex to this resolution,

instructs the Director of the Telecommunication Standardization Bureau

1 to continue to translate all Recommendations approved under the traditional approval process (TAP) in all the official languages of the Union;

2 to translate all reports of the Telecommunication Standardization Advisory Group (TSAG), and the reports of study group plenary meetings, in all the official languages of the Union;

3 to translate all ITU-T A-series Recommendations (ITU-T working methods) in all the official languages of the Union;

4 to translate all ITU-T guidelines on intellectual property rights;

5 to translate documents relating to the mandates and working methods of the Director of TSB's ad-hoc groups;

6 to include in the circular that announces the approval of a Recommendation an indication of whether it will be translated;

7 to continue the practice of translating ITU‑T Recommendations approved under the alternative approval process (AAP), up to 2 000 pages, within the financial resources of the Union;

8 to monitor the quality of translation and associated expenses;

9 to bring this resolution to the attention of the Directors of the Radiocommunication Bureau and the Telecommunication Development Bureau;

10 to continue to explore all possible options for the provision of interpretation and the translation of available ITU documentation, in order to promote the use of the official languages of the Union on an equal footing during official meetings of ITU-T, in particular during study group meetings;

11 to collaborate closely with language experts, terminologists, linguists, and other relevant professionals to support the development and maintenance of standardized terminology and vocabulary within ITU-T;

12 to implement effective terminology management processes and tools to facilitate the creation, validation, maintenance, and dissemination of standardized terminology within ITU-T, promoting linguistic accuracy and clarity in ITU-T Recommendations;

13 to monitor and evaluate the effectiveness and impact of language policies, practices, and resources within ITU-T, conducting regular assessments to identify areas for improvement and ensure continuous adaptation to evolving language needs and technological advancements,

invites Member States

1 to cooperate with ITU in the refinement of the official language translation of terms and definitions at the request of ITU CCT;

2 to promote capacity-building and training initiatives for language professionals, terminologists, and linguists, with a focus on supporting language-related activities within ITU-T and fostering multilingualism in telecommunication standardization;

3 to collaborate closely with TSB and relevant Sector Members in advancing language-related objectives and promoting the use of standardized terminology and vocabulary in ITU-T Recommendations and other documents;

4 to share best practices, experiences, and resources related to language support services, terminology development, and linguistic research, contributing to the collective efforts to enhance linguistic diversity and effectiveness within ITU-T,

instructs the Telecommunication Standardization Advisory Group

1 to consider the best mechanism for deciding which Recommendations approved under AAP shall be translated, in light of the relevant Council decisions;

2 to continue consideration of use of all the official languages of the Union on an equal footing in ITU publications and sites;

3 to decide on the SCV consultation for modifications of terms and definitions in ITU-T Recommendations that have been published, consented, or determined;

4 to review and evaluate language policies, practices, and resources within ITU-T, identifying areas for improvement and recommending measures to enhance linguistic diversity, consistency, and effectiveness in telecommunication standardization efforts;

5 to collaborate with TSB and relevant Member States in promoting the use of standardized terminology and vocabulary in ITU-T Recommendations and other documents, fostering clarity, interoperability, and linguistic accuracy.

Annex
(to Resolution 67 (Rev. New Delhi, 2024))

Terms of reference for the Standardization Committee for Vocabulary

1 To represent the interests of ITU-T in the ITU Coordination Committee for Terminology (ITU CCT).

2 To provide, through ITU CCT, consultation on terms and definitions for vocabulary work for ITU‑T in the official languages, in close collaboration with the General Secretariat (Conferences and Publications Department), the TSB editor for the English language as well as the relevant study group rapporteurs for vocabulary, and to seek harmonization among all ITU‑T study groups concerned regarding terms and definitions.

3 To liaise, through ITU CCT, with other organizations dealing with vocabulary work in the telecommunication field, for example the International Organization for Standardization (ISO) and the International Electrotechnical Commission (IEC) as well as the ISO/IEC Joint Technical Committee for information technology (ISO/IEC JTC 1), in order to eliminate duplication of terms and definitions.

4 To inform TSAG in each TSAG plenary meeting of its activities and to report its results to the next WTSA.