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| Asia-Pacific Telecommunity Member Administrations | | | |
| draft NEW RESOLUTION [APT-AI] - STANDARDIZATION ACTIVITIES OF THE ITU TELECOMMUNICATION STANDARDIZATION SECTOR TO ENSURE ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE SAFETY AND TRUSTWORTHINESS IN TELECOMMUNICATIONS/ICTS | | | |
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| **Abstract:** | This document contains a proposal for addition of a new ITU-T Resolution “Standardization activities of the ITU telecommunication standardization sector to ensure artificial intelligence safety and trustworthiness in telecommunications/ICTs”. | |
| **Contact:** | Mr. Masanori Kondo  Secretary General Asia-Pacific Telecommunity | E-mail: [aptwtsa@apt.int](mailto:aptwtsa@apt.int) |

Introduction

Artificial intelligence (AI) safety and trustworthiness in telecommunications/ICTs refers to the measures and practices required to ensure that AI systems used in telecommunications/ICTs operate reliably, transparently, and in accordance with standards. This involves ensuring the robustness and reliability of AI systems, safeguarding user data, mitigating biases, and maintaining user trust by providing clear, accountable, and user-centric AI solutions.

AI safety and trustworthiness in telecommunications/ICTs can be explained as follows:

- AI safety in telecommunications/ICTs: Ensuring that AI systems operate without posing intolerable or unacceptable risks in telecommunication/ICT environments and not introducing hazards.

- AI trustworthiness in telecommunications/ICTs: Ensuring that users and stakeholders can confidently rely on these systems to perform accurately in various applications in telecommunication/ICT environments.

Potential malfunction of AI systems and misuse of AI technologies could significantly impact the integrity and reliability of telecommunications/ICTs and impede the progress towards the 2030 Sustainable Development Goals. The critical role of ITU-T is in proactively identifying and mitigating unexpected negative consequences associated with the use of AI in telecommunications and ICTs, ensuring that such technologies are deployed responsibly and safely.

At the ITU Council 2024, the Secretary-General reported ([C24/67-E](https://www.itu.int/md/S24-CL-C-0067/en)) on the ITU's AI activities guided by Resolution 214 (Bucharest, 2022) of the Plenipotentiary Conference, which resolves that the ITU should continue the work on AI-related to telecommunications/ICTs. According to the report, the ITU has over 220 AI standards published or in development. However, there is a need to focus on standardization activities to address AI safety and trustworthiness in telecommunications/ICTs.

A number of global initiatives underscore the importance of AI safety and trustworthiness. APT Member Administrations believe that ITU-T has a role in developing standards for AI safety and trustworthiness in telecommunications/ICTs.

Proposal

APT Member Administrations propose establishing a new WTSA Resolution (“Standardization Activities of the ITU Telecommunication Standardization Sector to Ensure AI Safety and Trustworthiness in Telecommunications/ICTs”) to support necessary ITU-T efforts. This new Resolution aims to complement the PP Resolution 214.

ADD APT/37A43/1

DRAFT NEW RESOLUTION [APT-AI] (New Delhi, 2024)

Standardization activities of the ITU Telecommunication Standardization Sector to ensure artificial intelligence safety and trustworthiness in telecommunications/ICTs

(New Delhi, 2024)

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

recalling

*a)* Resolution 71 (Rev. Bucharest, 2022) of the Plenipotentiary Conference on the strategic plan for the Union for 2024-2027;

*b)* Resolution 214 (Bucharest, 2022) of the Plenipotentiary Conference, on Artificial intelligence technologies and telecommunications/information and communication technologies;

*c)* United Nations General Assembly (UNGA) Resolution A/RES/78/265, on seizing the opportunities of safe, secure and trustworthy artificial intelligence systems for sustainable development, and UNGA Resolution A/RES/78/311, on enhancing international cooperation on capacity-building of artificial intelligence;

*d)* relevant World Summit on the Information Society action lines and relevant United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), particularly SDG 9, on building resilient infrastructure, promoting inclusive and sustainable industrialization and fostering innovation, and SDG17, on strengthening the means of implementation and revitalizing the Global Partnership for Sustainable Development;

*e)* a number of global initiatives which underscore the importance of artificial intelligence (AI) safety and trustworthiness,

considering

*a)* the rapid advancement and integration of AI technologies in telecommunications/ICTs and their significant impact on the global digital ecosystem;

*b)* that the innovative development of AI technologies in telecommunications/ICTs contributes to achieving the United Nation’s (UN) sustainable development goals;

c) that the increasing use of AI technologies across various sectors presents potential risks in telecommunications/ICTs;

*d)* that the evolution of AI is significant and all countries should have equal opportunities to harness the benefits of AI while mitigating its risks;

*e)* that the potential malfunction of AI systems and misuse of AI technologies could significantly impact the integrity and reliability of telecommunications/ICTs and impede the progress towards the 2030 Sustainable Development Goals;

*f)* the challenges posed by automated systems and algorithms using AI in telecommunications, which, if not adequately governed, could lead to unfair practices, discriminatory outcomes, or reduced accountability in service provision;

*g)* that AI safety and trustworthiness are essential for protecting consumer rights and ensuring a reliable, safe, and trustworthy digital environment,

recognizing

*a)* the role of ITU-T in developing international standards for telecommunications/ICTs, contributing to a safer and trustworthy digital society, supporting the United Nations (UN) in playing a central and coordinating role in international development cooperation;

*b)* the necessity for global collaboration and dialogue among Member States, Sector Members, and other stakeholders in addressing potential challenges of AI safety and trustworthiness in telecommunications/ICTs;

*c)* the studies related to AI in all ITU-T study groups, focus groups, and other relevant groups and various AI initiatives that have a direct impact on telecommunications/ICTs, including AI for Good, which aims to identify practical applications of AI to advance the UN Sustainable Development Goals and scale those solutions for global impact;

*d)* the ITU-T's collaboration with other UN agencies and organisations in the Inter-Agency Working Group on AI of the WSIS Forum 2023, which combines the technological pillars of the UN to provide a solid foundation for system-wide efforts on AI;

*e)* the use of AI-related capabilities in telecommunications/ICTs to enable new applications and services, but at the same time, address the associated potential risks and safety concerns,

noting

*a)* the rapid development of AI technologies and their integration into various technologies, raising new challenges in ensuring the safety and trustworthiness in telecommunications/ICTs;

*b)* the increasing relevance of AI in global socio-economic development, necessitating a robust framework for AI safety and trustworthiness in telecommunications/ICTs;

*c)* the critical role of ITU-T in proactively identifying and mitigating unexpected negative consequences associated with the use of AI in telecommunications/ICTs, ensuring that such technologies are deployed responsibly and safely;

*d)* the urgency of establishing global standards for testing and validating the safety of AI technologies in telecommunications/ICTs, recognising that technology transcends borders and requires a harmonised approach to ensure global interoperability and trust;

*e)* AI safety and trustworthiness in telecommunications/ICTs can boost progress towards the UN SDGs and foster economic, social, and environmental sustainability;

*f)* developing countries face unique challenges in keeping pace with the rapid acceleration of AI development, thus stressing the need and urgency to narrow the disparities and assist developing countries in AI capacity-building to avoid potential risks,

emphasizing

that the rapid advancement of AI underscores the urgent need for global consensus on international cooperation on global standards to ensure AI safety and trustworthiness in telecommunications/ICTs and targeted support to bridge digital divides, particularly in developing countries,

resolves to instruct study groups of the ITU Telecommunication Standardization Sector

1 to develop ITU-T Recommendations, including, but not limited to, terms/definitions, guidelines, best practices, assessment procedures, and tools on AI safety and trustworthiness in telecommunications/ICTs;

2 to take AI safety and trustworthiness into consideration when developing Recommendations on telecom operation and management, energy efficiency aspects, AI-enabled networks and protocols, multimedia services and applications, IoT and smart cities, etc.;

3 to promote studies on AI risk assessment, strategies against adversarial attacks, and measures on bias mitigation, taking into account the linguistic/cultural diversity to ensure AI safety and trustworthiness in telecommunications/ICTs, and share best practices among Member States and Sector Members;

4 to periodically review and update AI-related Recommendations in telecommunications/ICTs to ensure safety and trustworthiness in view of technological advancements and emerging challenges,

instructs the Director of the Telecommunication Standardization Bureau

1 to facilitate the dissemination of information and awareness about AI safety and trustworthiness in telecommunications/ICTs among ITU-T membership such as workshops, seminars, and training programmes;

2 to support the work of ITU-T study groups dedicated to examining AI's role in telecommunications/ICTs, focusing on technical aspects to ensure AI's safe and beneficial use;

3 to foster public-private partnerships and international cooperation in standardization efforts, including developing guidelines and frameworks for AI safety and trustworthiness in telecommunications/ICTs;

4 to provide technical guidance to developing countries in implementing standards on AI safety and trustworthiness in telecommunications/ICTs taking into account the needs of each region;

5 to report to the next WTSA on the progress in implementing this Resolution,

invites ITU membership

1 to coordinate efforts to promote the development and adoption of ITU-T Recommendations ensuring that the deployment of AI technologies in telecommunications/ICTs is safe, beneficial, and inclusive;

2 to contribute to the development of, and to share their experiences and challenges in implementing standards to ensure AI safety and trustworthiness in telecommunications/ICTs;

3 to encourage various industries to participate in ITU's activities to ensure AI safety and trustworthiness in telecommunications/ICTs;

4 to promote a broad ecosystem for AI, including facilitating innovation and development to ensure AI safety and trustworthiness in telecommunications/ICTs;

5 to raise awareness and educate the public about AI technologies, their potential benefits and risks in telecommunications/ICTs.