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| DRAFT NEW RESOLUTION [ECP-MV] - To support and strengthen the development of standards for metaverse applications, systems and services | | | |
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| **Abstract:** | This European Common Proposal (ECP) seeks to support and strengthen the development of standards for metaverse applications, systems and services in ITU-T, in particular in relation to the architecture, infrastructure and enabling technologies which underpin the metaverse. It aims to promote the potential of metaverse for sustainable and accessible developments and the need for cooperation with ITU-D to identify the needs of developing countries in contributing to Bridging the Standardization Gap.  The ECP emphasizes the need for a comprehensive Roadmap for the development of ITU-T standards on metaverse and the identification of standardization gaps and the need for interoperability between different metaverses.  In addition, the ECP provisions seek to ensure that ITU-T works with industry and other SDOs to promote cooperation and complementarity in the development of standards for those metaverse applications, systems and services. | |
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DRAFT NEW RESOLUTION [ECP-MV] (New Delhi, 2024)

To support and strengthen the development of standards for metaverse applications, systems and services

(New Delhi, 2024)

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

considering

*a)* that the development of metaverse brings both challenges and opportunities with its potential to impact a wide range of telecommunications/ICTs applications, and to promote innovation across a wide range of industries and use cases, creating new opportunities, business models and markets;

*b)* that metaverse is not a new technology but a platform which combines various technologies and it can be implemented most effectively when these technologies are developed to be interoperable;

*c)* that standards development organizations (SDOs) have recognized the need for standardization with activities already underway and that ITU-T needs to effectively collaborate and coordinate its activities with those other SDOs;

*d)* the Working Groups of the ITU-T Focus Group on metaverse (FG-MV) completed 52 deliverables of pre-standardization work;

*e)* that the outcomes of the FG-MV made an important contribution to advancing a shared understanding and vision of an open, interoperable, secure, inclusive, accessible and sustainable metaverse with many stakeholders around the world,

bearing in mind

*a)* that metaverse is a key enabler for enhancing the value of future telecommunications and ICT applications and services;

*b)* that it is necessary to develop technical standards to ensure that the various technical components of the metaverse can effectively integrate and interoperate, including architectures, requirements, protocols, systems, and services;

*c)* that due to the impact metaverse may have on people´s lives, it is necessary to develop technical standards that respect and promote fundamental human rights such as privacy, inclusion, accessibility and protection;

*d)* that many ITU-T study groups have already started work for supporting metaverse applications, systems and services based on the deliverables developed and provided by FG-MV,

resolves

1 to promote and strengthen ITU-T’s standardization work related to the architecture, infrastructure and enabling technologies of telecommunications which underpin the metaverse;

2 to work with industry and other standards development organizations to promote cooperation and complementarity in the development of standards for metaverse applications, systems and services;

3 to promote the potential of metaverse for sustainable and accessible development and for enhancing the value of future telecommunication/ICT services and applications,

instructs Study Group 16

1 to be responsible for:

i) a thorough standardization gap analysis of metaverse systems, applications and services, and

ii) if standardization gaps are identified in telecommunication technologies, the development of a comprehensive Roadmap for the development of ITU-T standards on metaverse;

2to consider the deliverables developed by the ITU-T Focus Group on metaverse and to:

*i)* develop Recommendations, Technical Papers and Guidelines on metaverse infrastructure, systems, services and applications in order to foster robust telecommunication/ ICT ecosystems and make telecommunications/ICTs more efficient and user centric;

ii)focus on the need for interoperability between different metaverse applications, systems and services;

iii) collaborate and cooperate effectively with other standardization organizations and other related organizations dealing with metaverse standardization to ensure complementarity and avoid duplication,

instructs the Director of the Telecommunication Standardization Bureau, in collaboration with the Directors of the Telecommunication Development Bureau and the Radiocommunication Bureau

1 to work together to take into account the particular needs of developing countriesin the study and implementation of Recommendations of metaverse and its infrastructure, systems, services and applications; and to consider the contribution of metaverse in the achievement of the SDGs;

2 to ensure that the implementation of Recommendations, technical papers and guidelines related to the metaverse is reflected in TSB initiatives around Bridging the Standardization Gap aimed at assisting developing countries;

3 to take into account the need to share information relating to metaverse standardization between relevant groups in ITU-T, ITU-R and ITU-D,

instructs the Director of the Telecommunication Standardization Bureau

to support the coordination of activities and studies relating to metaverse standardization work among the relevant study groups, focus groups and other relevant groups in ITU-T and to be proactive in collaborating with other SDOs in relation to their work on metaverse,

instructs the study groups of the ITU Telecommunication Standardization Sector

1 to develop follow-up standardization work, as appropriate to their respective study Questions, based on the relevant deliverables developed and provided by the pre-standardization work of ITU Focus Group on metaverse (FG-MV);

2 to continue to develop metaverse related standardization work in accordance with the ITU Roadmap on metaverse, as developed by ITU-T SG 16, to enhance the value of the deliverables developed by each SG according to its mandate,

invites Member States, Sector Members, Associates and Academia

1 to make contributions based on best technical practices and to actively participate in metaverse-related standardization work and relevant activities of the ITU;

2 to collaborate and share expertise in metaverse-related areas with other ITU members, other relevant standards development organizations and other relevant.

**Reasons:** The concept of the metaverse is one of the most significant ICT developments in the last 2-3 years. The metaverse is a platform which combines one or more technologies to develop new and exciting applications and, already, there many new ground breaking commercial applications have been developed, in particular by combining AI, virtual reality and digital twins.  
The ITU-T Focus Group on metaverse (FG-MV) completed its work in June 2024 and the June-July 2024 TSAG meeting approved 52 deliverables, which it has passed to study groups to consider and take forward as appropriate. Europe endorses the work of the focus group and looks forward to participating in future metaverse-related work in the next ITU-T Study Period and beyond. However, in order for the full benefits of the metaverse to be realized, individual metaverse applications, systems and services need to inter-operate and, also, ITU and other SDOs need to collaborate to share best practice, identify gaps and avoid overlaps.  
This ECP seeks to provide guidance on the best approach for ITU-T and, in particular, for ITU-T Study Group 16 to lead that work building on the output of the FG-MV.