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| **Abstract:** | This TD provides the Communiqué of the TSB Director CxO consultation meeting, 9 December 2024, Dubai, United Arab Emirates. |

**Action**: TSAG is invited to consider this document.

This TD provides the communiqué of the last TSB Director CxO meeting 9 December 2024, Dubai, United Arab Emirates. The published communiqué is attached and is also available at: <https://www.itu.int/en/ITU-T/tsbdir/cto/Documents/Communique_ITU_CxO_2024.pdf>

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**CxO MEETING**

**9 December 2024, Dubai, United Arab Emirates**

**COMMUNIQUÉ**

High-level industry executives (CxOs) met with the senior management of the ITU Telecommunication Standardization Bureau to exchange views on industry priorities and related standardization activities in Dubai, UAE, 9 December 2024.

Telecom Review hosted the meeting with the support of the UAE Telecommunications and Digital Government Regulatory Authority, du, and Huawei.

CxOs discussed the support required from fibre optics and artificial intelligence (AI) for future networks and shared views on data processing and management, non-terrestrial networks, mitigating voice traffic fraud, broadband networks for public safety, and quantum information technologies.

An opening panel discussion on the business impact of standards explored topics including standards and capacity development for sound AI governance.

CxOs also received an executive briefing on the outcomes of the governing conference for ITU standardization work, the World Telecommunication Standardization Assembly, held from 15 to 24 October in New Delhi, India.

**Fibre optics, AI, and data processing and management**

High capacity, low latency, flexibility, energy efficiency, security, and network intelligence and automation are top industry priorities for network evolution.

CxOs encouraged ITU to provide leadership in standards development for optical networks to meet the needs of IMT-2030 (6G) and beyond, including cloud and AI, and expressed support for associated ITU work underway.

More specifically, CxOs encouraged ITU to lead the development of a standardization roadmap towards 2030 for optical networks in its relevant study groups. Associated ITU collaboration with other standards bodies, research organizations, and industry alliances, said CxOs, could build a unified vision for future optical networks and AI integration.

CxOs emphasized that network intelligence and environmental sustainability are integral to industry ambitions for future networks.

Distributed systems of specialized Large Language Models (LLMs) show potential to be more energy efficient than multipurpose models, leading CxOs to suggest that ITU standardization studies could explore how distributed systems and optical networks could support more energy-efficient AI capabilities.

Exploring potential to develop open-source LLMs designed for various Arabic dialects and other languages and telecom-specific applications, CxOs highlighted the importance of multilingual AI to inclusive global progress and encouraged ITU support in this regard.

Recognizing AI’s importance to network orchestration and optimizing networks’ operational and energy efficiency – and associated networking innovations for AI, and AI innovations for networking – CxOs welcomed the recent establishment of an ITU Focus Group on AI-Native Networks.

CxO also encouraged ITU to support the harmonization of standards for data processing and management, including data security, to enable cross-border data flows and emerging digital infrastructure such as AI-native networks.

**Mitigating voice traffic fraud**

Phone numbers should be trusted identifiers, and robocalls and spam and scam calls erode that trust. Resolving the challenge will require multiple global countermeasures, agreed CxOs.

CxOs discussed the value of real-time call validation as a countermeasure, welcoming ITU’s ongoing exploration of the potential for ITU standards to provide a call control protocol API for voice as well as AI-based applications.

CxOs suggested that international “do not originate” (DNO) lists could form another valuable fraud-mitigation tool. DNO lists include numbers from which calls are likely to be illegal, offering a simple preventative measure for robocalls and spam and scam calls.

CxOs expressed support for ongoing ITU work on digital signatures in signalling exchange and called on ITU to drive collaboration to create international DNO lists.

**Non-terrestrial networks**

Non-terrestrial networks leveraging satellite and airborne platforms to provide connectivity directly to mobile phones and Internet of Things devices could make key contributions to universal connectivity, public safety, and climate action.

CxOs encouraged ITU to develop guidance capable of accelerating the adoption of affordable direct-to-device connectivity for all types of devices, guidance that would address the intersection of new technologies, regulatory frameworks, and international standards.

ITU could support better interaction between different forms of terrestrial and non-terrestrial networks, suggested CxOs, by promoting cooperation, interoperability, and harmonized regulations.

ITU should promote standards-based non-terrestrial networks, said CxOs, in the interests of ensuring opportunities for market entry and competition.

CxO also encouraged ITU to develop standards for the assessment of non-terrestrial networks’ performance and service quality and adapt existing standards to this purpose where appropriate.

**Broadband networks for public safety**

The high capacity and low latency of IMT-2020 (5G) networks create compelling opportunities to improve public safety, for example with emergency services sharing access to real-time video streams and temporary broadband networks for safety-critical events.

CxO called on ITU to stimulate the development of cost-effective, highly reliable broadband networks for public safety.

They encouraged ITU to support associated public-private partnerships with a standardized network approach and architecture capable of meeting the needs of all countries.

**Quantum information technologies**

Quantum information technologies are expected to transform communication networks.

CxOs expressed support for ITU standardization work on network and security aspects of quantum information technologies and ITU studies on emerging and anticipated standardization demands.

CxOs also called on ITU to continue providing leadership in promoting the coordination of ongoing and future standardization projects across relevant standards bodies.

**The participating organizations were:**

AB Handshake Corporation; CAS Quantum Network Co. Ltd.; Emirates Integrated Telecommunications Company PJSC; GuardianSafetyNet; Huawei Technologies Co. Ltd.; LLC Bureau-1440; LoRa Alliance; Nippon Telegraph and Telephone Corporation; Nokia; Mozark Pte Ltd.; Rohde & Schwarz; Satelio IoT Services S.L.; Shanghai Data Exchange Co. Ltd; SomosGov Inc.; Telecom Review Group; Telefon AB - LM Ericsson; and Turkcell Iletisim Hizmetleri A.S.

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