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| **LIAISON STATEMENT** |
| **For action to:** | CWG-SFP |
| **For information to:** | ISCG; ITU-R RAG; ITU-D TDAG; All ITU-T Study Groups |
| **Approval:** | TSAG meeting (Geneva, 30 May 2025) |
| **Deadline:** | - |
| **Contact:** | Scott MansfieldRapporteur, RG-IESCanada | E-mail: Scott.mansfield@ericsson.com |
| **Contact:** | Bruce GracieAssociate rapporteur, RG-IESCanada | E-mail: bruce.gracie13@rogers.com  |
| **Contact:** | Dao TianAssociate rapporteur, RG-IESChina | E-mail: tian.dao@zte.com.cn |
| **Contact:** | Julien MaisonneuveAssociate rapporteur, TSAG RG-IESFrance | E-mail: julien.maisonneuve@nokia.com |

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| **Abstract:** | The third Liaison Statement from TSAG to the Council Working Group for strategic and financial plans 2028-2031focuses on proposing an alternative formulation for Thematic Priority 2 of the current Strategic Plan for the Union for 2024-2027. A more alternative text is entitled “Development of international standards” in place of “international numbering resources”. While the latter is a very important part of the work programme of ITU-T, the new formulation provides a more generic reference to a critical body of work in ITU in line with the other four Thematic Priorities outlined in the 2024-2027 version of the Strategic Plan in the context of the Strategic Goals of the Union. |

**Discussion:**

A second issue highlighted in the liaison statements from TSAG relates to the current formulation of Thematic Priority 2 in the current Strategic Plan for the Union for 2024-2027. It was emphasized that Thematic Priority 2 concerning International Numbering Resources is repeated in the ITU-T Operational Plan as Output #9. While not disputing the importance of the issue or the inclusion of the subject in the Operational Plan, the current formulation of TP2 does not seem to capture the intent of its inclusion as outlined in the narrative text of the overall framework of the Strategic Plan. As defined in the Strategic Plan, the definition of Strategic Priorities refers to “Areas of work that the Union focuses on and in which outcomes will be achieved to meet the strategic goals” (universal connectivity and sustainable digital transformation). As applicable to ITU-T, references are made in the first instance to the ITU making efforts to achieve universally accessible, affordable, high-quality, interoperable and secure telecommunication/information and communication technology (ICT) infrastructure, services and applications. In the second instance, ITU will strive to facilitate digital transformation by leveraging telecommunications/information and communication technologies (ICTs). The narrative applicable to Thematic Priorities suggests that a broader reference than that encompassed by international numbering resources is needed which not only captures the definition of a thematic priority in the Strategic Plan but also provides a more comprehensive description of the importance of ITU work in standardization-related activities.

**Proposal:**

The relevant information concerning thematic priorities in the current Strategic Plan includes the following:

Thematic priorities (see Section 2.6, ITU Strategic framework for 2024-2027, Resolution 71 (Rev. Bucharest 2022), Strategic plan for the Union for 2024-2027.

“The Sectors and General Secretariat will work together under ITU's thematic priorities to deliver outcomes towards achieving the Union's strategic goals. These thematic priorities and associated outcomes are described below” (paragraph 14).

The addition of the following alternative formulation of Thematic Priority #2 is proposed to be most appropriate to capture a body of work in ITU which is a critical part of its overall mandate:

**Development of international standards**

ITU is the forum for experts from developed and developing countries to collaborate in the elaboration of global, consensus-based implementable standards in the form of ITU-R and ITU-T Recommendations, which serve to define the basis for global telecommunication/ICT infrastructure, services and applications.

ITU carries out studies and adopts Recommendations and reports on radiocommunication and telecommunication/ICT matters that *inter alia* provide for worldwide connectivity and interoperability, improved performance, quality, affordability, timeliness of service and overall system economy.

ITU studies technical, operating and tariff questions and adopts Recommendations on them with a view to standardizing telecommunications on a worldwide basis. ITU also provides for the effective allocation and management of international telecommunication numbering, naming, addressing and identification (NNAI) resources in accordance with ITU-T Recommendations and procedures.

In addition, ITU’s work includes the establishment of international technical standards for new and emerging telecommunications/ICTs, creating an enabling environment for their introduction and utilization.

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