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|  | INTERNATIONAL TELECOMMUNICATION UNION  **TELECOMMUNICATION STANDARDIZATION SECTOR**  STUDY PERIOD 2025-2028 | | | | | TSAG-TD150 |
| TSAG |
| Original: English |
|  | | |  | | | Geneva, 26-30 May 2025 |
| **TD** | | | | | | |
| **Source:** | | | TSAG | | | |
| **Title:** | | | LS/o on the Terms of reference ITU-T SGs at the New work item opening [to All ITU-T Study Groups] | | | |
| **LIAISON STATEMENT** | | | | | | |
| **For action to:** | | | | All ITU-T Study Groups | | |
| **For information to:** | | | |  | | |
| **Approval:** | | | | TSAG meeting (Geneva, 30 May 2025) | | |
| **Deadline:** | | | | - | | |
| **Contact:** | | Dmitry Cherkesov  Russian Federation | | | E-mail: [dcherkesov@gmail.com](mailto:dcherkesov@gmail.com) | |

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| **Abstract:** | TSAG **requests that ITU-T Study Groups refrain from initiating new work items that exceed the mandate of the ITU or the specific mandates assigned to them by WTSA-24**. |

**Discussion:**

During last study period, many ITU-T Study Groups considered issues that extended beyond the scope of the ITU-T mandate. For example, there were discussions and new work item proposals related to the usage and operation of unmanned area vehicles (UAV), public health requirements, agricultural and chemical management, and topics with socio-political or military implications While telecommunications/ICT may support certain aspects of these applications, it is not within the purview of the ITU-T to unilaterally address such topics.

A major challenge in addressing this issue is the differing interpretations by ITU members regarding the scope of the ITU-T's mandate. This guidance is intended to help Study Groups more consistently assess whether proposed new work items align with the ITU-T’s core competencies and responsibilities.

To ensure that ITU-T activities remain aligned with its core mandate in telecommunications and ICTs, Study Groups are requested to refrain from initiating work items that fall outside their telecommunications/ICT competence. This includes, but is not limited to, work that centers on the policy, regulatory, operational, or technical design of non-telecommunications applications or services, such as UAVs, clinical health protocols, agricultural or chemical control systems, or defense-related technologies. Contributions that propose ICT support functions (*e.g.*, secure connectivity, data transmission protocols, interoperability standards) for these technologies and services may be considered, provided they remain clearly within the telecommunications/ICT domain.

Additionally, Study Group Chairs and TSB Advisors can play an important helping ensure new work items fall within the ITU-T’s mandate. While ITU-T is a member-driven, contribution-led organization, Study Group leadership and the TSB are well-positioned to remind participants of the organization’s scope if needed and help avoid overlap and duplication of work.

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