

WORLD TELECOMMUNICATION STANDARDIZATION  
ASSEMBLY  
New Delhi, 15-24 October 2024

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## **Resolution 103 – Enhancing standardization activities on digital public infrastructure**



## FOREWORD

The International Telecommunication Union (ITU) is the United Nations specialized agency in the field of telecommunications, and information and communication technologies (ICTs). The ITU Telecommunication Standardization Sector (ITU-T) is a permanent organ of ITU. ITU-T is responsible for studying technical, operating and tariff questions and issuing Recommendations on them with a view to standardizing telecommunications on a worldwide basis.

The World Telecommunication Standardization Assembly (WTSA), which meets every four years, establishes the topics for study by the ITU-T study groups which, in turn, produce Recommendations on these topics.

The approval of ITU-T Recommendations is covered by the procedure laid down in WTSA Resolution 1.

In some areas of information technology which fall within ITU-T's purview, the necessary standards are prepared on a collaborative basis with ISO and IEC.

## RESOLUTION 103 (New Delhi, 2024)

### **Enhancing standardization activities on digital public infrastructure**

*(New Delhi, 2024)*

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

*recalling*

- a)* No. 13 of Article 1 of the ITU Constitution, which establishes that the Union shall in particular facilitate the worldwide standardization of telecommunications, with a satisfactory quality of service;
- b)* that the strategic plan for the Union for 2024-2027, approved by means of Resolution 71 (Rev. Bucharest, 2022) of the Plenipotentiary Conference, establishes sustainable digital transformation as a strategic goal of the Union in facilitating progress towards the implementation of the World Summit on the Information Society action lines and the United Nations 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development;
- c)* that ITU is co-leading the High-Impact Initiative on Digital Public Infrastructure (Scaling inclusive and open digital ecosystems for the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)) with the United Nations Development Programme,

*recognizing*

- a)* that relevant study groups of the ITU Telecommunication Standardization Sector (ITU-T) have been involved in activities related to telecommunication/information and communication technology (ICT) standardization aspects of digital public infrastructure;
- b)* that development of standards for the telecommunication/ICT aspects of digital public infrastructure building blocks contribute to the development of an open and interoperable digital public infrastructure ecosystem,

*considering*

- a)* that accelerating progress towards the SDGs requires inclusive digital transformation, and that digital public infrastructure could maximize the opportunities for digitalization to support the SDGs;
- b)* that the availability and accessibility of high-quality digital connectivity based on high-performance, secure and resilient digital public infrastructure is critical for the future;
- c)* that there is also a need to extend and facilitate international collaboration on standards for digital public infrastructure among standards-development organizations (SDOs), academia and institutions with primary responsibility for standards development, within their respective mandates, with a view to minimizing duplication of work and achieving efficient use of resources,

*taking into account*

- a) that developing countries<sup>1</sup> could benefit from the application and development of telecommunication/ICT standards that enable digital public infrastructure;
- b) the work of the GovStack Global Initiative in the ITU Telecommunication Development Sector towards the development of technical specifications for components of the digital public infrastructure,

*resolves*

to foster cooperation and collaboration with relevant stakeholders to share knowledge and best practices, and explore common understandings on the technical requirements and standardization aspects of digital public infrastructure,

*instructs the Director of the Telecommunication Standardization Bureau*

- 1 to compile a repository of technical requirements, use cases and standardization aspects related to digital public infrastructure which can support the implementation of digital public infrastructure, in particular in developing countries;
- 2 to undertake a gap analysis, within available resources, to identify where ITU-T study groups could pursue studies, within their existing mandates, on the telecommunication/ICT standardization aspects of digital public infrastructure, and report on the results to the Telecommunication Standardization Advisory Group for further consideration;
- 3 to promote the participation of the membership in ITU-T's activities on digital public infrastructure, including through the integration of dialogues to share experiences and lessons learned,

*instructs the Director of the Telecommunication Standardization Bureau, in collaboration with the Secretary-General and the Director of the Telecommunication Development Bureau*

to collaborate with other relevant United Nations agencies and other international and regional multistakeholder and intergovernmental organizations that are assisting countries in implementing digital public infrastructure, and with countries that have lessons learned to share in this regard,

*instructs the Director of the Telecommunication Standardization Bureau, in collaboration with the Director of the Telecommunication Development Bureau*

- 1 to collaborate with other relevant SDOs, academia and organizations with responsibility for standards development, implementation and capacity building in the telecommunication/ICT aspects of digital public infrastructure, in order to support the membership in developing and deploying digital public infrastructure initiatives, taking into consideration the particular needs of developing countries;

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<sup>1</sup> These include the least developed countries, small island developing states, landlocked developing countries and countries with economies in transition.

2 to organize workshops for the ITU membership in collaboration with other relevant SDOs, academia and institutions with primary responsibility for digital public infrastructure implementation, in order to raise awareness and identify opportunities and challenges in the telecommunication/ICT standardization aspects of digital public infrastructure, in particular for developing countries,

*instructs the Telecommunication Standardization Advisory Group*

to coordinate standards-development activities across the relevant ITU-T study groups on the telecommunication/ICT aspects of digital public infrastructure, in the light of the results of the gap analysis conducted in accordance with *instructs the Director of the Telecommunication Standardization Bureau 2* of this resolution,

*instructs the study groups of the ITU Telecommunication Standardization Sector*

1 to assist the Director of the Telecommunication Standardization Bureau by compiling relevant existing work that could support digital public infrastructure;

2 to develop ITU-T Recommendations, and other ITU-T deliverables, within their existing mandates, that can lead to the sustainable, interoperable, inclusive and efficient adoption of digital public infrastructure,

*invites Member States, Sector Members, Associates and Academia*

1 to engage in relevant telecommunication/ICT standards-development activities in the area of digital public infrastructure and share lessons learned;

2 to participate in capacity-building programmes in telecommunication/ICT standards development, relevant to the area of digital public infrastructure;

3 to consider appropriate measures that enable the successful implementation of digital public infrastructure.