

I n t e r n a t i o n a l T e l e c o m m u n i c a t i o n U n i o n

ITU-T

TELECOMMUNICATION
STANDARDIZATION SECTOR
OF ITU

WORLD TELECOMMUNICATION STANDARDIZATION
ASSEMBLY

Johannesburg, 21-30 October 2008

Resolution 32 – Strengthening electronic working methods for the work of ITU-T

FOREWORD

The International Telecommunication Union (ITU) is the United Nations specialized agency in the field of telecommunications, 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.

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RESOLUTION 32

Strengthening electronic working methods for the work of ITU-T

(Montreal, 2000; Florianópolis, 2004; Johannesburg, 2008)

The World Telecommunication Standardization Assembly (Johannesburg, 2008),

considering

- a) the rapid pace of technology change and the consequent need for improved and more rapid standards development;
- b) that electronic working methods (EWM) enable open, rapid and easy collaboration between participants in the activities of the ITU Telecommunication Standardization Sector (ITU-T);
- c) that the implementation of EWM capabilities and associated arrangements will have significant benefits for the ITU-T membership, including resource-limited individuals, organizations and states, by allowing them timely and effective access to standards information and the standards-making and approval process;
- d) that EWM will be advantageous towards improving communication among members of ITU-T and between other relevant standardization organizations and ITU, towards globally harmonized standards;
- e) the key role of the Telecommunication Standardization Bureau (TSB) in providing support to EWM capabilities;
- f) the decisions contained in Resolution 66 (Rev. Minneapolis, 1998) of the Plenipotentiary Conference;
- g) the budgetary difficulty developing countries have in participating actively in face-to-face ITU-T meetings,

noting

- a) the desire of members to receive documents in electronic format in a timely manner and the need to reduce the increasing amount of hard copy documentation generated during meetings and dispatched by mail;
- b) that many forms of EWM have already been implemented by ITU-T, such as electronic document submission and the electronic forum service;
- c) the desire of ITU-T members to conduct electronic meetings;
- d) the increasing use of portable computers by members during meetings;
- e) the advantage to the membership of facilitating greater electronic participation in the development and approval of Recommendations, in particular by members unable to participate in study group meetings in Geneva and elsewhere;
- f) the economies possible from enhancing ITU-T EWM capabilities (e.g. reduced costs for distribution of paper documentation, travel costs, etc.);
- g) the encouragement by other telecommunication standardization organizations of collaboration using EWM;
- h) that the alternative approval process (AAP) (Recommendation ITU-T A.8) is conducted primarily by electronic means,

resolves

- 1 that the principal EWM objectives of ITU-T are:
 - that collaboration between members on development of Recommendations should be by electronic means;
 - that ITU-T should provide facilities and capabilities for EWM at meetings;
 - that TSB should provide all members of ITU-T with appropriate and ready access to electronic documentation for their work, including a global, unified and consolidated view of document traceability; and
 - that TSB should provide appropriate systems and facilities to support the conduct of ITU-T's work by electronic means;
- 2 that these objectives should be systematically addressed in an EWM Action Plan, including individual action items identified by the ITU-T membership or TSB, and prioritized and managed by TSB with the advice of the Telecommunication Standardization Advisory Group (TSAG),

instructs

- 1 the Director of TSB to:
 - maintain the EWM Action Plan to address the practical and physical aspects of increasing the EWM capability of ITU-T;
 - identify and review costs and benefits of the action items on a regular basis;
 - report to each meeting of TSAG the status of the Action Plan, including the results of the cost and benefit reviews described above;
 - provide the executive authority, budget within TSB, and resources to execute the Action Plan with all possible speed;
 - develop and disseminate guidelines for the use of ITU-T EWM facilities and capabilities;
 - take action, in order to provide appropriate electronic participation or observation facilities (e.g. webcast, audioconference, webconference/document sharing, videoconference, etc.) in ITU-T meetings for delegates unable to attend face-to-face meetings,
- 2 the TSAG EWM Working Party to continue to:
 - act as the point of contact between ITU-T membership and TSB on EWM matters, in particular providing feedback and advice on the contents, prioritization and implementation of the Action Plan;
 - identify user needs and plan the introduction of suitable measures through appropriate subgroups and pilot programmes;
 - request study group chairmen to identify EWM liaisons;
 - encourage participation by all participants in the work of ITU-T, especially EWM experts from TSAG, the study groups, TSB and appropriate ITU Bureaux and departments;
 - continue its work electronically outside TSAG meetings as necessary to carry out its objectives.