

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

Hammamet, 25 October – 3 November 2016

Resolution 32 – Strengthening electronic working methods for the work of the ITU Telecommunication Standardization Sector

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.

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.

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RESOLUTION 32 (Rev. Hammamet, 2016)

Strengthening electronic working methods for the work of the ITU Telecommunication Standardization Sector

(Montreal, 2000; Florianópolis, 2004; Johannesburg, 2008; Dubai, 2012; Hammamet, 2016)

The World Telecommunication Standardization Assembly (Hammamet, 2016),

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 in 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. Guadalajara, 2010) of the Plenipotentiary Conference;
- g) the budgetary difficulty developing countries¹ have in participating actively in face-to-face ITU-T meetings;
- h) Resolution 167 (Rev. Busan, 2014) of the Plenipotentiary Conference, which resolves that ITU should further develop its facilities and capabilities for remote participation by electronic means in appropriate meetings of the Union, including working groups created by the Council,

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) that there are still some difficulties in conducting e-meetings, due to persistent or intermittent deterioration in quality of service, in particular in meetings with live interpretation;
- d) the desire of ITU-T members to conduct electronic meetings;
- e) the increasing use of mobile devices by members in meetings and elsewhere;

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

- f) 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;
- g) the difficulties in terms of bandwidth availability and other constraints, particularly in developing countries;
- h) the difficulties in searching for documents and/or information relevant to a specific subject, topic or issue, and the need for a smart solution for classification and easy mining of such documents and/or information;
- i) the economies possible from enhancing ITU-T EWM capabilities (e.g. reduced costs for distribution of paper documentation, travel costs, ITU-T logistics costs, etc.);
- j) the encouragement by other telecommunication standardization organizations of collaboration using EWM;
- k) 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 TSB, in close collaboration with the ITU Telecommunication Development Bureau (BDT), should provide facilities and capabilities for EWM at ITU-T meetings, workshops and training courses, particularly to assist developing countries that have bandwidth limitations and other constraints, including remote participation and electronic access, such as via LINUX-based platforms;
- to encourage electronic participation of developing countries in ITU-T meetings, by providing simplified facilities and guidelines, and by waiving any expenses for those participants, other than the local call or Internet connectivity charges;
- that TSB, in close collaboration with BDT, should provide facilities and capabilities for EWM at ITU-T meetings, workshops and training courses, and encourage participation of developing countries, by waiving, within the credits that the Council is empowered to authorize, any expenses for those participants, other than the local call or Internet connectivity charges;
- 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;
- that TSB should provide appropriate systems and facilities to support the conduct of ITU-T's work by electronic means;
- that all activities, procedures, studies and reports of ITU-T study groups be posted on the ITU-T website so as to facilitate navigation to find all relevant information;
- to consider developing a mobile-friendly version of the ITU-T website to facilitate easy access by smart mobile devices to information; and
- to simplify and facilitate enhanced searching for documents and/or information;

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 on 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, workshops and training courses for delegates unable to attend events in person, and coordinate with BDT to assist in the provision of such facilities;
- provide an ITU-T website that is easy to navigate to find all relevant information; and in particular a classification mechanism and an enhanced search engine to extract documents and/or information that are related to a specific subject, topic or issue; and
- provide a mobile-friendly version of the ITU-T website;

2 TSAG to continue to:

- act as the point of contact between the 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.