



INTERNATIONAL TELECOMMUNICATION UNION

ITU-T

TELECOMMUNICATION
STANDARDIZATION SECTOR
OF ITU

WORLD TELECOMMUNICATION STANDARDIZATION
ASSEMBLY
Florianópolis, 5-14 October 2004

**Resolution 44 – Bridging the standardization
gap between developing and developed
countries**

FOREWORD

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

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RESOLUTION 44

Bridging the standardization gap between developing¹ and developed countries

(Florianópolis, 2004)

The World Telecommunication Standardization Assembly (Florianópolis, 2004),

considering

- a) that Resolution 123 (Marrakesh, 2002) of the Plenipotentiary Conference instructs the Secretary-General and the Directors of the three Bureaux to work closely with each other in pursuing initiatives that assist in bridging the standardization gap between developing and developed countries;
- b) that Resolution 129 (Marrakesh, 2002) of the Plenipotentiary Conference invites Member States to undertake concerted action to pursue the matter with a view to achieving the objectives of Resolution 37 (Istanbul, 2002) of the World Telecommunication Development Conference,

recognizing

- a) that, in accordance with Article 13 of the ITU Convention, the World Telecommunication Standardization Assembly (WTSA) is convened to consider specific matters related to telecommunication standardization;
- b) that the tasks undertaken in the ITU Telecommunication Standardization Sector (ITU-T) cover both technical matters and matters having policy or regulatory implications;
- c) that Article 17 of the ITU Constitution, while providing that the functions of ITU-T shall fulfil the purposes of the Union relating to telecommunication standardization, stipulates that such functions are to be performed "bearing in mind the particular concerns of the developing countries",

noting

- a) that the standardization gap between developed and developing countries should be bridged by collective efforts from both developed and developing countries;
- b) that ITU has been playing a key role in bridging the digital divide, which includes the standardization gap between developed and developing countries;
- c) that ITU's programmes for fostering Partnerships continue to strengthen and expand the assistance ITU provides its members, particularly developing countries,

taking into account

- a) that developing countries could benefit from an improved capability in the application and development of standards;
- b) that the telecommunication industry, particularly manufacturers and operators, could also benefit from the greater involvement of developing countries in the making and application of standards,

¹ In this resolution, the term "developing countries" is used in the generic sense and includes also countries with economies in transition and least developed countries.

resolves

1 that the objectives of the action plan annexed to this resolution, aimed at bridging the standardization gap between developed and developing countries, should be implemented to the extent feasible without delay;

2 that the ITU regional offices shall be encouraged to work closely with the Telecommunication Standardization Bureau (TSB) in order to carry out the objectives of the action plan,

instructs the Director of the Telecommunication Standardization Bureau

1 to work closely with the Director of the Telecommunication Development Bureau (BDT) on implementing the objectives of the action plan annexed to this resolution;

2 taking into account financial constraints and existing and planned BDT activities, to include in the TSB budget proposal to the Council funds identified for the implementation of this resolution,

invites the Director of the Telecommunication Standardization Bureau

to work closely with the Director of BDT to encourage the formation of Partnerships as one of the means for financing the plan,

instructs the study groups

to be actively involved in the implementation of the programmes set forth in the action plan annexed to this resolution,

encourages Member States and Sector Members

to take the objectives set out in the action plan into account in their participation in ITU-T.

Annex to resolution 44

Action plan for the implementation of Resolution 123 (Marrakesh, 2002) of the Plenipotentiary Conference

I Programme 1: Strengthening standard-making capabilities

1) Objective

- To improve the standard-making capabilities of developing countries.

2) Activities

- Developing guidelines to assist developing countries in their involvement in ITU-T activities.
- Developing webcasting systems that enable developing-country experts to follow study group meetings from their office workstations.
- Conducting a certain number of consultancy projects designed to support developing countries in the development of standardization plans, strategies, policies, etc. The outputs should be further transformed into best practices.

II Programme 2: Assisting BDT in enhancing efforts in respect of standards application

1) Objective

To assist BDT in:

- Ensuring that developing countries have a clear understanding of ITU-T Recommendations.
- Enhancing the application of ITU-T Recommendations in developing countries.

2) Activities

To assist BDT in:

- Reviewing/assessing the existing national standards of developing countries and determining whether they are consistent and in accordance with the current ITU-T Recommendations.
- Developing a set of guidelines on how to apply ITU-T Recommendations, with particular emphasis on Recommendations having regulatory and policy implications.
- Compiling and maintaining a database containing information on new technologies that are standardized.
- Organizing training courses on the application of specific Recommendations.
- Establishing a forum on the ITU-T website where developing countries can raise questions concerning their understanding and application of Recommendations and seek advice from study group experts.

III Programme 3: Human resource building

- Organizing seminars, workshops and study group meetings in developing countries.
- In close collaboration with BDT, providing training courses on standardization to developing countries.
- Establishing and maintaining a forum, moderated by a group of experts, to support and provide advice to standardization bodies in developing countries.

IV Programme 4: Flagship groups for bridging the standardization gap

- A developed country voluntarily joins a number of developing countries in a small group in order to support them in their standardization activities. The close cooperation and direct support thus provided will enable the developing countries within such groups to carry out their standardization activities more effectively. The groups could be called flagship groups for bridging the standardization gap.
- TSB shall support and encourage the establishment of such flagship groups, the activities of which should serve to improve the quality of standardization activities in developing countries.
- Details of each new flagship group should be posted on the ITU-T website. Those details could include plans, reports on conducted tasks, best practices, etc.

V Programme 5: Fundraising for bridging the standardization gap

a) Contributions to the action plan in the following forms of Partnership and others means:

- Partnership contributions.
- Voluntary contributions by industry participating in the telecommunication market of developing countries.

- Voluntary contributions by others.
 - Any potential additional budget allocated by ITU within budget limits.
- b) Management of funds raised by TSB:
- The Director of TSB shall be responsible for the management of funds raised as above, which shall be used principally for achieving the objectives of these programmes.
- c) Principles for use of funds:
- Funds are to be used for training, surveying, studying programmes, etc. (but not for the purchase of equipment).