

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 54 – Creation of, and assistance to, regional groups

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 54 (Rev. Hammamet, 2016)

Creation of, and assistance to, regional groups

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

The World Telecommunication Standardization Assembly (Hammamet, 2016),

considering

- a) that Article 14 of the ITU Convention authorizes the creation of study groups with a view to standardizing telecommunications on a worldwide basis;
- b) that Article 17 of the ITU Constitution states that "the functions of the Telecommunication Standardization Sector shall be, bearing in mind the particular concerns of the developing countries, to fulfil the purposes of the Union relating to telecommunication standardization ...";
- c) that Resolution 123 (Rev. Busan, 2014) 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 developing¹ and developed countries, and to further collaborate with relevant regional organizations and support their work in this area;
- d) that Resolution 191 (Busan, 2014) of the Plenipotentiary Conference recognizes that the basic principle of cooperation and collaboration among the Sectors is to avoid duplication of the Sectors' activities and to ensure that work is carried out efficiently and effectively;
- e) the following outcome for the ITU Telecommunication Standardization Sector (ITU-T) in the strategic plan for the Union for 2016-2019, adopted in Resolution 71 (Rev. Busan, 2014) of the Plenipotentiary Conference, focused on the promotion of participation of membership, in particular developing countries, in the definition and adoption of non-discriminatory international standards with a view to bridging the standardization gap:
 - increased participation in the ITU-T standardization process, including attendance of meetings, submission of contributions, taking leadership positions and hosting of meetings/workshops, especially from developing countries;
- f) that the work of certain study groups, particularly in relation to, among other things, tariff and accounting principles, international telecommunication/information and communication technology (ICT) economic and policy issues, next-generation networks (NGN), the Internet of things (IoT) and future networks (FN), security, quality, mobility and multimedia, continues to be of considerable strategic significance for developing countries,

recognizing

- a) that Article 43 of the Constitution (No. 194) states that "Member States reserve the right to convene regional conferences, to make regional arrangements and to form regional organizations, for the purpose of settling telecommunication questions which are susceptible of being treated on a regional basis ...";
- b) the growing level of participation and involvement of developing countries in all the ITU-T study groups;
- c) that regional groups have been established within ITU-T Study Groups 2, 3, 5, 11, 12, 13 and 17;

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

- d) that meetings of the above-mentioned regional groups of ITU-T study groups are held by ITU and can be supported by regional organizations and/or regional standardization bodies;
- e) the satisfactory results obtained by the regional approach within the framework of the activities of the parent study groups;
- f) that the activities of most of these regional groups have become increasingly important, and encompass a growing number of issues;
- g) the successful establishment of regional groups under Study Group 3, which leads studies relating to policy, tariff and accounting matters (including costing methodologies) for international telecommunication services and study of related telecommunication economic, accounting and policy issues;
- h) the sustainability of the regional groups of Study Group 3, and the encouraging start of regional groups² established in accordance with this resolution,

noting

- a) the need to increase the participation of developing countries in the work of study groups, with a view to ensuring that their specific needs and concerns, within the mandate of ITU-T and its study groups, are better taken into account;
- b) the need to improve and strengthen the organization and working methods of the ITU-T study groups in the interests of enhancing the participation of developing countries, to increase the efficiency and effectiveness of international standardization work and to improve synergies with other ITU Sectors;
- c) the importance of having appropriate consultative frameworks for the formulation and study of Questions, the preparation of contributions and capacity building;
- d) the need for developing countries to be more present and more active within ITU-T's standardization forums;
- e) the need to encourage more inclusive participation in the work of ITU-T, e.g. by academia and experts working in the field of standardization of telecommunications/ICT, particularly from developing countries;
- f) the budgetary limitations, especially in developing-country institutions, for attendance at ITU-T events of specific interest to them,

bearing in mind

that the application of the organizational set-up and working methods of the regional groups of Study Group 3 to their successors, consistent with the ITU-T rules of procedure in Resolution 1, could serve to expand and improve the level of developing-country participation in standardization activities and contribute to achieving the objectives of Resolution 123 (Rev. Busan, 2014),

taking into consideration

- a) the experiences and lessons learned by the regional groups, regarding the operational as well as organizational set-up and working methods;
- b) the specific process for approving Recommendations foreseen for the regional groups of Study Group 3 in clause 9.2.1 of Resolution 1 (Rev. Hammamet, 2016) of this assembly,

² Regional groups are open, without exclusion, to the participation of all members belonging to the specific region where the regional group is created.

recognizing further

- a) that a common and coordinated approach in regard to standardization could serve to foster the promotion of standardization activities in developing countries;
- b) that joint meetings of regional groups of different ITU-T study groups, in particular if concatenated with a regional workshop and/or a meeting of a regional organization and/or regional standardization body, could encourage the participation of developing countries in these meetings and increase the effectiveness of such joint meetings;
- c) that, in developing countries, a few standardization experts are usually responsible for handling numerous standardization areas within their administrations, including issues that concern Questions under study simultaneously by a number of ITU-T study groups,

resolves

- 1 to support, on a case-by-case basis, the coordinated creation of regional groups of ITU-T study groups;
- 2 to encourage cooperation and collaboration of regional groups with regional standardization entities (regional organizations, regional standardization bodies, and so forth);
- 3 to invite the ITU Council to consider providing support for the regional groups as appropriate,

invites the regions and their Member States

- 1 to pursue the creation of regional groups of parent ITU-T study groups in their respective regions, to take the necessary steps in accordance with *resolves* 1 to 3 of this resolution, and to support meetings and activities of the regional groups, as appropriate, in coordination with the Telecommunication Standardization Bureau;
- 2 to develop draft terms of reference and working methods for these regional groups, which are to be approved by the parent study group, as regards areas of concern to them;
- 3 to create regional standardization bodies, as appropriate, and encourage joint and coordinated meetings of such bodies with the regional groups of ITU-T study groups in their respective regions, so that these standardization bodies act as an umbrella for such regional group meetings,

invites the regional groups thus created

- 1 to disseminate information about telecommunication standardization and encourage the involvement of developing countries in standardization activities in their regions, and to submit written contributions to the parent study group in which they work in accordance with approved terms of reference reflecting the priorities of their respective regions;
- 2 to cooperate closely with the relevant respective regional organizations and ITU regional offices,

instructs study groups and the Telecommunication Standardization Advisory Group

to coordinate joint meetings of the regional groups of ITU-T study groups,

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

within the allocated or contributed resources that are available,

- 1 to provide all necessary support for creating and ensuring the smooth functioning of the regional groups;
- 2 to consider, whenever possible, holding workshops concurrently with meetings of the ITU-T regional groups, in the relevant regions, and vice versa;
- 3 to take all necessary measures to facilitate the organization of meetings and workshops of the regional groups,

calls upon the Director of the Telecommunication Standardization Bureau

to cooperate with the Director of the Telecommunication Development Bureau in order to:

- i) continue to provide specific assistance to regional groups;
- ii) encourage the continuing development of computerized application tools related to their cost methodology by the members of the regional groups of Study Group 3;
- iii) take appropriate steps to facilitate meetings of the current and future regional groups in order to promote the necessary synergies among the three Sectors and thereby improve the effectiveness and efficiency of the study groups,

further invites the regional groups thus created

to cooperate closely with the relevant respective regional organizations, standardization bodies and ITU regional offices, and to report on their work in their regions.