

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
Geneva, 1-9 March 2022

Resolution 54 – Regional groups of study groups 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.

© ITU 2022

All rights reserved. No part of this publication may be reproduced, by any means whatsoever, without the prior written permission of ITU.

RESOLUTION 54 (Rev. Geneva, 2022)

Regional groups of study groups of the ITU Telecommunication Standardization Sector

(Florianópolis, 2004; Johannesburg, 2008; Dubai, 2012; Hammamet 2016; Geneva, 2022)

The World Telecommunication Standardization Assembly (Geneva, 2022),

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 58 (Rev. Busan, 2014) of the Plenipotentiary Conference resolves that ITU should continue developing stronger relations with regional telecommunication organizations, including the organization of six ITU regional preparatory meetings for plenipotentiary conferences, as well as other Sector conferences and assemblies as necessary;
- d)* that Resolution 123 (Rev. Dubai, 2018) 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;
- e)* that Resolution 191 (Rev. Dubai, 2018) 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;
- f)* the following outcome for the ITU Telecommunication Standardization Sector (ITU-T) in the strategic plan for the Union for 2020-2023, adopted in Resolution 71 (Rev. Dubai, 2018) of the Plenipotentiary Conference, focused on the promotion of active participation of the 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;
- g)* 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, Internet of things and future networks, security, quality, mobility and multimedia, continues to be of considerable strategic significance for developing countries,

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

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) that Article 14A of the Convention and Resolution 1 (Rev. Geneva, 2022) of this assembly both affirm the principal duties of the Telecommunication Standardization Advisory Group (TSAG) to "review priorities, programmes, operations, financial matters and strategies for activities in the Telecommunication Standardization Sector", "provide guidelines for the work of study groups" and "recommend measures, *inter alia*, to foster cooperation and coordination with other relevant bodies";
- c) that Resolution 1 (Rev. Geneva, 2022) establishes the rules of procedure of ITU-T;
- d) that Resolution 22 (Rev. Geneva, 2022) of this assembly authorizes TSAG to act between world telecommunication standardization assemblies and assigns TSAG responsibility for the ITU-T A-series Recommendations (Organization of the work of ITU-T);
- e) the growing level of participation and involvement of developing countries in all the ITU-T study groups;
- f) that specific regional groups have been successfully established within ITU-T Study Groups 2, 3, 5, 11, 12, 13, 17 and 20
- g) 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;
- h) the satisfactory results obtained by the regional approach within the framework of the activities of the parent study groups;
- i) that the activities of most of these regional groups have become increasingly important, and encompass a growing number of issues,

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 in bridging the standardization gap, 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, in accordance with Resolution 169 (Rev. Dubai, 2018) of the Plenipotentiary Conference, the private sector and experts working in the field of international standardization of telecommunications/ICTs, 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 six principal regional telecommunication organizations, namely the Asia-Pacific Telecommunity (APT), the European Conference of Postal and Telecommunications Administrations (CEPT), the Inter-American Telecommunications Commission (CITEL), the African Telecommunications Union (ATU), the Council of Arab Ministers of Telecommunication and Information represented by the Secretariat-General of the League of Arab States (LAS) and the Regional Commonwealth in the field of Communications (RCC), seek close cooperation with the Union, as delineated in Resolution 58 (Rev. Busan, 2014),

taking into consideration

- a) the experiences and lessons learned by study groups and their regional groups regarding the operational as well as organizational set-up and working methods, consistent with the ITU-T rules of procedure in Resolution 1 (Rev. Geneva, 2022), which could serve to expand and improve the level of developing-country participation in international standardization activities and contribute to achieving the objectives of Resolution 123 (Rev. Dubai, 2018);
- b) the specific process for approving Recommendations foreseen for the regional groups of ITU-T Study Group 3 in clause 9.2.1.1 of Resolution 1 (Rev. Geneva, 2022),

recognizing further

- a) that a common and coordinated approach in regard to international 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, to the extent practicable, the coordinated creation of regional groups of ITU-T study groups, with at least two supporting members from the region concerned that are committed to contributing actively on the topics assigned to the regional groups;
- 2 that ITU-T study groups develop terms of reference and working methods for these regional groups and inform TSAG for coordination among study groups;
- 3 that the composition of regional groups of ITU-T study groups is consistent with considering *c*), and supported by the regional telecommunication organizations identified under *bearing in mind* of this resolution;
- 4 that representatives of Member States and Sector Members who belong to the region concerned may participate fully in the regional groups of ITU-T study groups;
- 5 that representatives of Associates and Academia that belong to a parent ITU-T study group, and belong to the region concerned, may participate in regional groups of that ITU-T study group, but should not participate in any decision-making or liaison activity, taking into account Resolution 169 (Rev. Dubai, 2018);

6 that meetings of regional groups of other study groups shall, in principle, be limited to delegates and representatives from Member States, Sector Members, Academia and Associates of the study group concerned in the region; however, each regional group may invite other participants to attend all or part of a meeting, to the extent that these other participants would be eligible to attend the meetings of the full study group;

7 to encourage cooperation of regional groups of ITU-T study groups with regional standardization entities (regional telecommunication organizations, regional standardization bodies, and so forth), especially with the regional telecommunication organizations identified under *bearing in mind* in this resolution, as well as the holding of meetings of regional groups of ITU-T study groups jointly with ITU workshops in the region,

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, in accordance with *resolves* 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 consistent with and 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; the regional group meetings should be held jointly with thematic ITU workshops being conducted in the region, whenever possible;

4 to propose candidates for regional group chairmanships and vice-chairmanships;

5 to encourage the candidacy of women for the regional group management positions;

6 to encourage eligible ITU-T members from the respective region to participate in the meetings of their regional groups, and to consider terminating a regional group when it is no longer required,

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 telecommunication organizations, standardization bodies and ITU regional offices, to create possible synergies and to report on their work in their regions to the relevant parent ITU-T study groups,

instructs study groups and the Telecommunication Standardization Advisory Group

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

2 to consider and identify Questions of greatest interest to Member States and Sector Members from developing countries with a view to keeping them updated on the development of international standards in the context 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 of the ITU-T study groups;
- 2 to consider, whenever possible, holding events (workshops, forums, seminars, training, etc.) 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 of the regional groups of ITU-T study groups and workshops in the relevant regions,

calls upon the Director of the Telecommunication Standardization Bureau

to cooperate with the Director of the Telecommunication Development Bureau and with the Director of the Radiocommunication Bureau, as appropriate, in order to:

- i) continue to provide specific assistance to regional groups of ITU-T study groups;
- ii) encourage the use of electronic working methods to assist the members of the regional groups;
- iii) take appropriate steps to facilitate meetings of regional groups in order to promote the necessary synergies among the three Sectors and thereby improve the effectiveness and efficiency of the study groups.