WORLD TELECOMMUNICATION STANDARDIZATION ASSEMBLY
New Delhi, 15-24 October 2024

Resolution 67 – Use in the ITU Telecommunication Standardization Sector of the six official languages of the Union on an equal footing, and the Standardization Committee for Vocabulary

FOREWORD

The International Telecommunication Union (ITU) is the United Nations specialized agency in the field of telecommunications, and 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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<p style="text-align:center;">RESOLUTION 67 (Rev. New Delhi, 2024)</p>

Use in the ITU Telecommunication Standardization Sector of the six official languages of the Union on an equal footing, and the Standardization Committee for Vocabulary

(Johannesburg, 2008; Dubai, 2012; Hammamet, 2016; Geneva, 2022; New Delhi, 2024)

The World Telecommunication Standardization Assembly (New Delhi, 2024),

recognizing

a) the adoption by the Plenipotentiary Conference of Resolution 154 (Rev. Bucharest, 2022), on use of the six official languages of the Union on an equal footing, which instructs the ITU Council and the ITU General Secretariat on how to achieve equal treatment of the six languages and which appreciated the work accomplished by the ITU Coordination Committee for Terminology (ITU CCT) on the adoption and agreement of terms and definitions in the field of telecommunications/information and communication technologies in all the official languages of the Union;

b) Resolution 1386 of the Council, adopted at its 2017 session and last modified at its 2024 session, on ITU CCT, which consists of the Coordination Committee for Vocabulary of the ITU Radiocommunication Sector and the Standardization Committee for Vocabulary (SCV) of the ITU Telecommunication Standardization Sector (ITU-T) functioning in accordance with the relevant resolutions of the Radiocommunication Assembly and the World Telecommunication Standardization Assembly (WTSA), respectively, and representatives of the ITU Telecommunication Development Sector, in close collaboration with the secretariat;

c) Resolution 208 (Rev. Bucharest, 2022) of the Plenipotentiary Conference, on appointment and maximum term of office for chairs and vice-chairs of Sector advisory groups, study groups and other groups;

d) Resolution 1 (Rev. Geneva, 2022) of WTSA, on ITU-T rules of procedure;

e) the decisions of the Council centralizing the editing functions for languages in the General Secretariat (Conferences and Publications Department), calling upon the Sectors to provide the final texts in English only (this applies also to terms and definitions),

considering

a) that, under Resolution 154 (Rev. Bucharest, 2022), the Council is instructed to maintain the Council Working Group on Languages, in order to monitor progress and report to the Council on the implementation of that resolution;

b) the importance of providing information in all the official languages of the Union on an equal footing on ITU-T webpages;

c) that Council Resolution 1386 (C17, last modified C24) considers the importance of collaborating with other interested organizations about terms and definitions, symbols and other means of expression, units of measurement, etc., with the objective of standardizing such elements;

d) the difficulty of achieving agreement on definitions when more than one ITU study group is involved;

e) that there is an ongoing need for publication of the terms and definitions required for the work of ITU-T,

noting

a) that SCV was established in accordance with Resolution 67 (Johannesburg, 2008) of WTSA, on the initiation of SCV;

b) that SCV is a part of the joint ITU CCT in accordance with Council Resolution 1386 (C17, last modified C24),

resolves

1 that the ITU-T study groups, within their terms of reference, should continue their work on technical and operational terms and their definitions in English only;

2 that the work of standardizing vocabulary within ITU-T shall be based on the proposals made by the study groups in the English language, with the consideration and adoption of the translation into the other official languages as proposed by the General Secretariat, and that this shall be ensured by ITU CCT, which is composed of experts fluent in the official languages from all ITU Sectors, and persons designated by interested organizations and other participants in the work of ITU, in close collaboration with the General Secretariat (Conferences and Publications Department) and the Telecommunication Standardization Bureau (TSB) editor for the English language, taking into account *recognizing e)* above;

3 that, when proposing terms and definitions, the ITU-T study groups shall use the guidelines given in Annex B to the "Author's guide for drafting ITU-T Recommendations";

4 that, where more than one ITU study group is defining the same terms and/or concept, efforts should be made within ITU-T to select a single term and a single definition which is acceptable to all of the ITU study groups concerned;

5 that each study group should appoint a rapporteur for vocabulary to coordinate efforts on terms and definitions and related subjects and to act as an SCV contact person for the study group in this field;

6 that the responsibilities of the rapporteur for vocabulary will be developed by SCV;

7 that TSB should collect all new terms and definitions which are proposed by the ITU study groups in consultation with ITU CCT, enter them in the online ITU Terms and Definitions database, and provide a search mechanism based on time ranges;

8 that the chair and six vice-chairs of SCV, each representing one of the official languages, should be nominated by WTSA, in accordance with Resolution 208 (Rev. Bucharest, 2022);

9 that the terms of reference of SCV are given in the annex to this resolution,

instructs the Director of the Telecommunication Standardization Bureau

1   to continue to translate all ITU-T Recommendations approved under the traditional approval process (TAP), and all ITU-T A-series Recommendations (ITU-T working methods), in all the official languages of the Union;

2   to translate all reports of the Telecommunication Standardization Advisory Group (TSAG), and the reports of study group plenary meetings, in all the official languages of the Union;

3   to translate documents relating to the mandates and working methods of the Director of TSB's ad-hoc groups;

4   to include in the circular that announces the approval of an ITU-T Recommendation an indication of whether it will be translated;

5   to continue the practice of translating ITU-T Recommendations approved under the alternative approval process (AAP), up to 2 000 pages, within the financial resources of the Union;

6   to monitor the quality of translation and associated expenses;

7   to bring this resolution to the attention of the Directors of the Radiocommunication Bureau and the Telecommunication Development Bureau;

8   to continue to explore all possible options for the provision of interpretation and the translation of available ITU documentation, in order to promote the use of the official languages of the Union on an equal footing during official meetings of ITU-T, in particular during study group meetings;

9   to ensure that ITU-T webpages are updated in a timely manner in all the official languages of the Union,

invites Member States

to cooperate with ITU in the refinement of the official language translation of terms and definitions at the request of ITU CCT,

instructs the Telecommunication Standardization Advisory Group

1   to consider the best mechanism for deciding which ITU-T Recommendations approved under AAP shall be translated, in light of the relevant Council decisions;

2   to annually consider the use of all the official languages of the Union on an equal footing in ITU publications and on ITU websites, including in the ITU Terms and Definitions database.

ANNEX
(to Resolution 67 (Rev. New Delhi, 2024))

Terms of reference for the Standardization Committee for Vocabulary

1   To represent the interests of the ITU Telecommunication Standardization Sector (ITU-T) in the ITU Coordination Committee for Terminology (ITU CCT).

2   To provide, through ITU CCT, consultation on terms and definitions for vocabulary work for ITU-T in the official languages, in close collaboration with the General Secretariat (Conferences and Publications Department), the Telecommunication Standardization Bureau editor for the English language as well as the relevant study group rapporteurs for vocabulary, and to seek harmonization among all ITU-T study groups concerned regarding terms and definitions.

3   To liaise, through ITU CCT, with other organizations dealing with vocabulary work in the telecommunication field, for example the International Organization for Standardization (ISO) and the International Electrotechnical Commission (IEC) as well as the ISO/IEC Joint Technical Committee for information technology (ISO/IEC JTC 1), in order to eliminate duplication of terms and definitions.

4   To inform the Telecommunication Standardization Advisory Group (TSAG) at each TSAG meeting of its activities and to report its results to the next world telecommunication standardization assembly.