

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

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## **Resolution 68 – Evolving role of industry in the ITU Telecommunication Standardization Sector**



## 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.

## RESOLUTION 68 (Rev. New Delhi, 2024)

### **Evolving role of industry in the ITU Telecommunication Standardization Sector**

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

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

*considering*

- a)* that Resolution 122 (Rev. Guadalajara, 2010) of the Plenipotentiary Conference, on the evolving role of the World Telecommunication Standardization Assembly (WTSA), called also for the organization of the Global Standards Symposium (GSS);
- b)* the objective of Resolution 123 (Rev. Bucharest, 2022) of the Plenipotentiary Conference, on bridging the standardization gap between developed and developing countries<sup>1</sup>;
- c)* Resolution 44 (Rev. New Delhi, 2024) of this assembly, on bridging the standardization gap between developing and developed countries;
- d)* that Resolution 209 (Rev. Bucharest, 2022) of the Plenipotentiary Conference outlines the conditions and financial obligations of small and medium enterprises in the work of ITU, which are under ongoing review by the ITU Council;
- e)* Resolution 22 (Rev. New Delhi, 2024) of this assembly, on authorization of the Telecommunication Standardization Advisory Group (TSAG) to act between world telecommunication standardization assemblies;
- f)* that the ITU Telecommunication Standardization Sector (ITU-T) is a unique international standardization organization comprising 194 Member States and over 700 Sector Members, Associates and Academia from all over the world;
- g)* that the engagement and participation of industry has become an important strategic objective;
- h)* the important objectives and conclusions of GSS (New Delhi, 2024);
- i)* that, since 2009, the Director of the Telecommunication Standardization Bureau has organized meetings of high-level private-sector executives, such as chief technology officers (CTOs) or chief executive, financial or other officers (CxOs), to discuss the standardization landscape, coordinate standards priorities, find the best ways to address the needs of the private sector and to explore new industry dynamics;
- j)* that the conclusions of CTO/CxO meetings have been reflected in official ITU-T communiqués and, when relevant, taken into account by TSAG,

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

*recognizing*

- a) that developing countries primarily engage in the standardization activities of ITU-T, but they often face challenges in participating in the growing number of global and/or regional standards development organizations (SDOs), industry forums and consortia, including in attending their meetings;
- b) that ITU-T should continue to strengthen and evolve the role of WTSA, as required by Resolution 122 (Rev. Guadalajara, 2010), and should call on private-sector executives to reconvene their meetings, given their significance, in a similar format to GSS but exclusively for the private sector, with the objective of strengthening the role of ITU-T by addressing the specific requirements and priorities identified by those executives for standardization activities, and also considering the needs and concerns of developing countries;
- c) that ITU-T should also encourage cooperation with other relevant SDOs,

*recognizing further*

- a) that, in 2023, TSAG also approved an industry engagement action plan to attract intensive industry participation from both developed and developing countries in order to take account of the latest technical trends and market needs;
- b) that TSAG also agreed to organize a workshop with four principal goals aligned with that action plan:
  - i) to attract industry decision-makers to discuss, *inter alia*, how ITU-T can provide value on the overall standardization landscape;
  - ii) to contribute to dialogue among all parties;
  - iii) to provide valuable feedback on the action plan; and
  - iv) to identify value propositions to enhance participation and retention of industry as Sector Members and Associates, including small and medium enterprises (SMEs), in ITU-T,

*noting*

- a) that building close collaboration between governments and industry is essential and important for the work of ITU-T to progress;
- b) that, to encourage industry participation in ITU-T, standards-making should appropriately respond to the needs of the industry in a coordinated way and take the outcomes of CTO/CxO meetings as input into ITU-T activities;
- c) that ITU-T Recommendations proposed in response to those coordinated needs will enhance ITU's credibility by effectively addressing the requirements of countries through the deployment of optimized technical solutions and reduction of the proliferation of uncoordinated Recommendations, which offer economic benefits, in particular for developing countries;
- d) that representatives of the telecommunication/information and communication technology (ICT) industry play an essential role in the development of technical standards, such as ITU-T Recommendations;

e) that new and emerging telecommunications/ICTs are essential for the industry for all ITU-T stakeholders and lay the foundation for growth and transformation in other sectors of industry;

f) that TSAG has recognized that the input of industry is highly desired,

*resolves to instruct the Director of the Telecommunication Standardization Bureau*

1 to continue to organize CTO/CxO meetings and expand them to represent a more diverse stakeholder view than the current CTO/CxO meetings, in order to assist in identifying and coordinating standardization priorities and subjects, taking into account new and emerging technologies, while ensuring participation at the level of industry executives;

2 to address the needs of developing countries at those meetings by consulting such countries prior to the meetings, and to encourage the participation of local industry representatives;

3 to encourage participation, preferably in-person but also remotely, in CTO/CxO meetings of a wide representation of industry, including from SMEs, micro enterprises and developing countries from all regions;

4 to continue to organize workshops and similar events where Member States and ITU-T Sector Members are able to discuss the future of ITU-T and consider the Sector's overall structure and functioning and set goals for the Sector;

5 to engage industry, including SMEs and large organizations, from all regions, including representatives of developing countries, in the activities of ITU-T in line with relevant provisions of the ITU Constitution and Convention, WTSA resolutions and Plenipotentiary Conference resolutions;

6 to organize CTO/CxO meetings in diverse, suitable locations, bearing in mind the relevance of worldwide centres of expertise in new and emerging telecommunications/ICTs, which are a priority for ITU-T;

7 to develop effective mechanisms to facilitate industry participation in those meetings, motivate a stable group composition and ensure regular participation by CTOs or their alternates;

8 to ensure that the agendas for CTO/CxO meetings are aligned with the overall strategic objectives of ITU-T and the ongoing work of TSAG;

9 to encourage industry engagement meetings to be made subject-specific, by focusing, for example, on health, transportation or education, in order to maximize interest and potential participation;

10 to continue to include the conclusions of CTO/CxO meetings in an official ITU-T communiqué;

11 to video record the presentations of CTO/CxO meetings for sharing, including with regional standardization bodies and regional telecommunication organizations for dissemination to industry representatives unable to attend, in order to raise awareness and encourage their participation in future meetings;

- 12 to include the conclusions of CTO/CxO meetings in a report to TSAG, considering each topic, its progression/evolution in the lifecycle and how it was addressed by previous CTO/CxO meetings;
- 13 to take the conclusions of CTO/CxO meetings into account in ITU-T work;
- 14 to produce a regular report to TSAG on the follow-up of CTO/CxO meeting conclusions;
- 15 to produce a report to the next WTSA, assessing the outcomes of CTO/CxO meetings over the period and examining the need to continue or enhance its activities,

*resolves to instruct the Telecommunication Standardization Advisory Group*

- 1 to continue to evaluate the CTO/CxO meeting process;
- 2 to consider how future industry engagement workshops could be organized, including their preferred timeframe and objectives;
- 3 to evaluate the results of industry engagement workshops and similar events on an ongoing basis;
- 4 to evaluate occurrences of low participation by ITU-T Sector Member and non-member industry representatives in ITU-T activities,

*encourages all Members States from developed countries*

to promote participation by their Sector Members in ITU-T activities, including CTO/CxO meetings,

*encourages Sector Members and Associates, including small and medium enterprises, from developed and developing countries*

- 1 to participate at the level of their executives in CTO/CxO meetings, and to raise proposals in regard to their priority standardization areas as well as standardization needs and interests;
- 2 to engage actively in the implementation of the industry engagement action plan, including by organizing and participating in future workshops and similar events.