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| INTERNATIONAL TELECOMMUNICATION UNION**TELECOMMUNICATIONSTANDARDIZATION SECTOR**STUDY PERIOD 2009-2012 | **Joint Coordination Activity on Accessibility and human Factors (JCA-AHF)** |
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| **Title:** | Extracts from ITU-T Study Group 16, Report 11 “Report of the third meeting of Study Group 16 (Geneva, 19-30 July 2010) – Plenary sessions” regarding the Accessibility Focus Group |

This document reproduced the parts of the Report 11 which relates to the discussions of the Accessibility Focus Group being held during the last SG16 meeting (19 – 30 July 2010).

The Report is being reproduce as TD GEN

The report is available on the web at: <http://www.itu.int/md/T09-SG16-R-0011/en> (TIES restricted)

Page 9 of the report: paragraph 4.4

## Proposal of a new ITU-T Focus Group on Accessibility

Two documents were available concerning a proposal to create a new FG on Accessibility, [COM16-C.437](http://www.itu.int/md/meetingdoc.asp?lang=en&parent=T09-SG16-C-0437) (Mitsubishi Electric, Japan) and [TD 209/Plen](http://www.itu.int/md/meetingdoc.asp?lang=en&parent=T09-SG16-100719-TD-PLEN-0209) (SG 16 Chairman). The opening SG plenary tasked Q26/16 to discuss the proposal in detail and make a recommendation for the SG 16 closing plenary.

The detailed discussion is found in the Q26/16 report (§‎5.2.1).

The Q26/16 Rapporteur reported to the closing SG 16 plenary that Q26/16 did not agree with the original proposal but that the discussion resulted in a liaison statement to the ITU-T Focus Group on Cloud Computing and the commencement of work on a proposal for a differently-oriented accessibility Focus Group. There was insufficient time to complete the proposal but the work will continue with the aim of completion before the next meeting of Study Group 16 using the text in [Annex H](#Annex_H) herein as a basis.

Page 14 of the report, paragraph 5.2.1

### Focus group on accessibility

In the weeks before the meeting the TSB Director received a proposal from a member (Dominic Foundation, Switzerland) to create a Focus Group on Accessibility (having TSAG as parent group). In accordance with the procedure in §2.1.2.2 of ITU-T A.7, the proposal was circulated to TSAG vice-chairmen and to Study Group chairmen for comments. (A.7 notes that this procedure should only be used in exceptional circumstances “in response to urgent marketplace needs”.) After correspondence consultation amongst the TSAG and study group chairmen, it was decided that Study Group 16, as the lead Study Group on accessibility, should handle the matter. An editing group was set up to examine the proposal and suggest amendments. The group did not reach any conclusions in the time available but two suggested revisions were contributed.

The chairman of Study Group 16, Mr Naito, through his company, created [COM16-C.437](http://www.itu.int/md/meetingdoc.asp?lang=en&parent=T09-SG16-C-0437), which gives the history and includes the original proposed text. He also created [TD 209/Plen](http://www.itu.int/md/meetingdoc.asp?lang=en&parent=T09-SG16-100719-TD-PLEN-0209), which contains the contributions to the editing committee. The opening SG 16 Plenary considered these documents and asked Q26/16 to look at them in more detail and to make recommendations that would be put to the closing SG 16 Plenary.

Q26/16 reviewed the documents mentioned above and concluded that the original proposal contained only two topics of substance; accessibility of cloud computing systems and interoperability. It was agreed that the work on cloud computing would be better dealt with by the ITU-T Focus Group on Cloud Computing. It was agreed to send a liaison statement to FG Cloud asking them to consider the matter. While agreeing that interoperability was an important topic in many parts of the ITU, the group did not see sufficient urgency to warrant the creation of a Focus Group to consider only accessibility-related interoperability issues.

Nevertheless, the group considered whether there were other reasons that would justify the creation of a Focus Group related to the work of Q26/16. Several arguments were made about the possible benefits of such an approach:

Focus Groups are open to anyone and it was felt that a Focus Group might make it easier to attract more people to take part in accessibility work, especially persons with disabilities. This might be a way of implementing WTSA-08 Res.70.

It was suggested that the Focus Group might be helpful to the embryonic ITU Accessibility Task Force.

The Rapporteur asked for suggestions about the topics that might be included in the terms of reference of the Focus Group. A list was compiled and discussed within the group. Some changes were made but time ran out and we were unable to complete a full Focus Group proposal. It was agreed to attach the text, which was discussed but not agreed, to the meeting report (see Annex Q26.A in [TD 236/Plen](http://www.itu.int/md/meetingdoc.asp?lang=en&parent=T09-SG16-100719-TD-PLEN-0236), also reproduced as [Annex H](#Annex_H) herein). The group agreed to continue work on the proposal with an aim of submitting it to the next meeting of Study Group 16.

Concerns were raised about the funding of an accessibility Focus Group. ITU-T A.7 requires in its §4 that no TSB resources (except TIES) be expended. Meetings, even if electronic, would be more expensive than usual because of the need to provide communication support for participants with disabilities. The point was made that the United Nations Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities is binding on the ITU and that funding to allow the participation of persons with disabilities should come from the ITU for all such meetings, including Focus Groups. It was pointed out that if the meetings of the Focus Group were collocated with the meetings of SG 16 the costs might be reduced, but this led to questions about what benefits a focus group might bring in such circumstances.

Page 51, Annex H of the report

Suggestions for proposed ITU-T Focus Group on Accessibility

Aims:

* Encourage people to become involved in the accessibility work of ITU.
* Encourage the participation of disabled people.
* Encourage the participation of universities.
* Encourage the participation of company accessibility departments.

Objectives:

* Collect real-world problems from disabled users.
* Collect issues and problems related to implementation of the UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities.
* Suggest actions to be taken to resolve these problems if they are within the area of responsibility of ITU.
* Collect examples of best practice through case studies and other means.
* Suggest study points to be undertaken either by the Focus Group or by SG 16.
* Suggest actions to be taken to build awareness of accessibility and the concepts of universal design.
* Identify interoperability and compatibility issues in the accessibility area.

Deliverables

* Various reports based on the above objectives.
* A report on best practices.

Period of operation

One year from creation of the FG.

Funding

Unknown.

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