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| **Inter-Sector Coordination Team on Issues of Mutual Interest (ISCT)**  **Geneva, 9 April 2018** | P:\SUP\Logos\Post-150th Anniv\ITU-logo-UNblue.jpg |
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| Report by the Secretary General | |
| REPORT ON THE IMPLEMENTATION OF RESOLUTION 191 (BUSAN, 2014) “STRATEGY FOR THE COORDINATION OF EFFORTS AMONG  THE THREE SECTORS OF THE UNION” | |

This document presents a report on the implementation of Resolution 191 (Busan, 2014) on the strategy for the coordination of efforts among the three Sectors of the Union. It has been submitted to Council to be noted and is submitted to the ISCT, for its information.

## 1 Background

* 1. The 2014 Plenipotentiary Conference (PP-14) adopted Resolution 191 (Busan, 2014) on “Strategy for the coordination of efforts among the three Sectors of the Union”.
  2. The Resolution *instructs* the Secretary-General to ensure the design of a coordination and cooperation strategy for effective and efficient efforts in areas of mutual interest to the three ITU Sectors, in order to avoid duplication of effort and optimize the use of resources; and to ensure the preparation of an updated list containing the areas of mutual interest to the three Sectors pursuant to the mandates of each assembly and conference.
  3. Furthermore, it *instructs* the Directors of the Bureaux to ensure that the agendas of the respective advisory groups include coordination with the other Sectors, so that strategies and actions are suggested for optimal development of the areas of common interest; and to provide support to the Sectors’ advisory groups in the inter-Sector coordination activity in areas of mutual interest.
  4. It also *instructs* the Secretary-General and the Directors of the Bureaux to ensure reporting of the coordination activities carried out among the different Sectors in each such area, as well as the results obtained.

## Coordination within the secretariat

**Inter-Sector Coordination Task Force (ISC-TF)**

* 1. As previously reported to the 2017 Session of the Council ([C17/38](https://www.itu.int/md/S17-CL-C-0038/en)), to progress implementation of Resolution 191 (Busan, 2014), the Inter-Sector Coordination Task Force (ISC-TF) was established to enhance the coordination and collaboration among the three Bureaux and the General Secretariat, with a view to avoid internal duplication of effort and optimize the use of resources. The Terms of Reference of the Inter-Sectoral Task Force (ISC-TF) were specified in [Service Order No.16/13](https://www.itu.int/md/S17-CL-INF-0019/en).
  2. The ISC-TF, chaired by the Deputy Secretary-General, held 6 meetings in 2017 and 21 since its inception in March 2015, with the participation of: *a)* the Deputies to the Directors of the three Bureaux and the Chief of the Strategic Planning and Membership Department; *b)* the Intersectoral Focal Points responsible for specific thematic areas; *c)* the Regional Directors; *d)* the Chiefs of Departments of the General Secretariat; *e)* as an observer, the Head of the Internal Audit Unit, and at the invitation of the Chairman, the Chiefs of Departments of the Bureaux.
  3. The areas of inter-sectoral interest coordinated by ISC-TF include the topics of: Climate change, Emergency telecommunications, Accessibility, Communications, Web editorial, Resource mobilization, Gender, Events Coordination, Bridging the Standards Gap, and as of 2017, the participation of SMEs in the work of ITU and Youth. In 2017, the Group:
* Facilitated the exchange of information among the Sectors and the General Secretariat on those thematic areas by updating the Group and discussing the progress achieved in each area;
* Discussed and proposed solutions for the key issues raised by the focal points, with a clear advantage being that the issues could be properly escalated if decisions could not be taken or resolved at the focal point level;
* Leveraged the participation and contribution of the Regional Offices, which have been participating through remote participation to the ISC-TF discussions;
* Continued the process of publishing and updating information on ITU’s work on the thematic areas on the relevant ITU webpages, in an open and transparent way;
* Coordinated ITU’s participation in conferences and fora (e.g. COP23 in Bonn) with the aim to rationalize ITU’s delegation/presence whilst ensuring inter-sectoral interests are represented; and
* Facilitated better coordination of organization of ITU events and meetings, through the work carried out in that particular area.
  1. In addition, the Group achieved the following specific outcomes in 2017:
* The Group developed a risk management policy and a risk appetite statement which were endorsed by the 2017 Session of the Council;
* Coordinated and monitored the status of the Action Plan to implement the JIU ITU Review recommendations (out of the 11 formal recommendations addressed to the ITU secretariat, ten have been implemented and one is in progress to be implemented for Council 2018, while out of the 35 informal recommendations in total, 21 have been implemented, 12 are on track for implementation as per the plan submitted to Council 2017 and two are under consideration by the ITU governing bodies);
* The Group also included a standing agenda item on JIU UN system wide reviews as part of the established process for considering these reports and their corresponding recommendations. During this period, the Group reviewed reports from the JIU’s 2016 and 2017 work plan, as well as the status of recommendations from previous year reports that remained under consideration. The percentage of acceptance and implementation of JIU recommendations by ITU has seen a significant rise in the past three years (from 2014 to 2016, percentage of acceptance moved from around 50% to 87% and percentage of implementation from around 46% to 86%; currently standing at ~83% of acceptance and 72% of implementation, which includes the JIU reports recently issued). This progress, as well as the established monitoring mechanism have been acknowledged by the JIU as a best practice.
* Coordinated the establishment of the procedure and guidelines for Video and Photography requests;
* Reviewed the preparation of the Visual identity guidelines;
* Followed up on the management of the Accessibility Fund;
* Addressed the issue of gender balance in the ITU statutory committees;
* Continued reviewing the detailed reporting on the status of Sector Membership by Sector and Region; and
* Oversaw the implementation of the pilot project for the participation of SMEs in the work of ITU.

## Membership coordination

* 1. The Inter-Sector Team on Issues of Mutual Interest (ISCT) was established jointly by the Radiocommunication Advisory Group (RAG), the Telecommunication Standardization Advisory Group (TSAG), and the Telecommunication Development Advisory Group (TDAG).
  2. The meetings of RAG, TSAG, and TDAG in 2014 and 2015, had discussed and had provided their guidance to the respective Bureaux in this regard (background information was provided in [Doc. C15/38(Rev.1)](http://www.itu.int/md/S15-CL-C-0038/en)). The [Terms of Reference](https://www.itu.int/en/ITU-D/Conferences/TDAG/Pages/Terms-of-reference-for-IST.aspx) of the ISCT were agreed among the Sectors, and a leadership team was appointed.
  3. ISCT has since its creation held four meetings in conjunction with TDAG meetings. At its meeting on 10 May 2017, ISCT updated the list of areas of mutual interest to include candidate topics on working methods for ITU inter-Sector coordination. ISCT also reviewed and approved the mappings of common interest areas of work between ITU-D and ITU-T study groups and between ITU-R and ITU-T study groups.

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