SOURCE   UK Department for Culture, Media and Sport

TITLE   UK submission on the Correspondence Group on the Elaboration of the ITU-D contribution to the ITU Strategic Plan 2016 - 2019

UK submission to the Correspondence Group on the Elaboration of the ITU-D Contribution to the ITU Strategic Plan 2016-2019

The UK fully supports the vision of the ITU-D to be the leading organisation for promoting the availability and application of ICTs for socio-economic development. The UK also fully supports the existing Mission and Goals of the ITU-D in particular noting its role in facilitating and enhancing telecommunication and ICT development by offering, organising and coordinating technical cooperation and assistance activities.

The UK notes the Report of the Director, BDT relating to the Regional Preparatory meetings for WTDC-14 concerning the results of the World Telecommunication Standardisation Assembly 2012 that relate to ITU-D. In particular, there were many modifications made to Resolution 44 (Bridging the Standardisation Gap between Developing and Developed countries) to add substantial new activities. However, these activities are unfunded and the TSB Director has appealed in April 2013 in a Circular Letter to the ITU membership for voluntary contributions to fund these extra activities of ITU-T, in accordance with Resolution 34 of WTSA.

The UK is fully supportive of the activity of the ITU in Bridging the Standardisation Gap. However, given the increase in the number of activities related to Bridging the Standardisation Gap and the fact that many activities cannot be completed because of lack of funding, the UK believes that such work is better and more naturally placed in the Development Sector. This will allow all ITU capacity building work to be placed in the one Sector which specialises in providing support for developing countries, and to be the focus of this important activity. This will lead to greater overall efficiency, allow for better prioritisation and remove or substantially reduce duplication of capacity building work.

We therefore propose moving the capacity building related aspects of the Bridging the Standardisation Gap work from the T Sector and R Sector to the ITU-D Sector as follows:

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Strategy of bridging the standardization gap (from current strategic plan)

To provide support and assistance to developing countries in bridging the standardization gap in relation to standardization matters, information and communication network infrastructure and applications, and relevant training materials for capacity building, taking into account the characteristics of the telecommunication environment of the developing countries.

Goal and main objectives (from ITU-T's website)

The overarching goal of the BSG programme is to facilitate increased participation of developing countries in standardization, to ensure that developing countries experience the economic benefits of associated technological development, and to better reflect the requirements and interests of developing countries in the standards-development process.

The main objective is to develop human resources on ICT standardization in developing countries. ITU offers training on implementation of ITU-T Recommendations for developing countries with the objective of enhancing understanding of the standard and its adoption at national level. This is carried out through technical tutorials on a regional basis at the request of the developing country.