



Question(s): all/11

STUDY GROUP 11 – CONTRIBUTION xxx

Source: Ghana, other countries from Africa, other Sector Members from Africa

Title: Proposal to create a regional group of ITU-T SG11 in Africa region

Background

The recent activities of ITU-T SG11, especially in the field of combating counterfeiting of ICT equipment and conformance and interoperability (C&I) testing have created growing interest by African countries.

The recent ITU Plenipotentiary conference (PP-14) approved Resolution 188 (BUSAN, 2014) "*Combating counterfeit telecommunication/information and communication technology devices*".

Counterfeit ICT devices pose a lot of challenges in developing countries, particularly the Africa region. In this regard the ITU conducted a study/survey in African region with the aim of gathering information on challenges, use cases and efforts in place to address the problem of counterfeit ICT products. The study was instrumental to raise awareness of this problem among African stakeholders and has triggered this contribution for the establishment of a regional group of SG11 in the African region. The findings of the survey will be presented by Mr BOATENG during the upcoming SG11 meeting (27 June – 6 July 2016) for information of the SG11 participants as well as to support the ongoing work items of Question 8/11 in this field.

Also, according to the remarks outcome from the ITU workshop on "*Combating counterfeit and substandard ICT devices*" (Geneva, Switzerland, 17-18 November 2014) there is a need to continue the discussion as to the role that international organizations could play in using standards, and conformance and interoperability programs, as a means to combat counterfeit and substandard ICT devices.

In addition, African countries are very interested in fostering studies related to conformity and interoperability (C&I) programme, which is organized in accordance with the ITU Plenipotentiary Conference [Resolution 177](#) (REV. BUSAN, 2014) "*Conformance and interoperability*" in four pillars:

- Pillar 1. Conformity assessment
- Pillar 2. Interoperability events
- Pillar 3. Capacity building
- Pillar 4. Assistance in the establishment of test centres and C&I Programmes in developing countries

The ITU C&I programme was initiated at the request of ITU's membership to enhance the conformity and interoperability of ICT networks and products implementing ITU Recommendations or part thereof, solicit feedback to improve the quality of ITU

Recommendations, and reduce the digital divide and the Standardization Gap by assisting developing countries with human resource and infrastructure capacity building.

Participating in SG11 meeting, which are mainly organized in Geneva, pose constraints to some African stakeholders with limited resources. A regional group of SG11 in Africa would be instrumental in discussing, tuning and fostering African contributions to SG11 to bring African point of view to the attention of SG11 membership.

According to the above consideration and with the understanding that African countries would like to raise awareness of SG11 activities in its region to involve more stakeholders, noting that it would be important to enhance collaboration with the ITU-D, which is already active in the region organizing seminars and capacity building events in this field, in accordance with Resolution 54 WTSA-12 (Rev. Dubai, 2012) “*Creation of, and assistance to, regional groups*” it is proposed to establish a regional group of SG11 in Africa that would foster joint meetings in the region with ITU-D-related events and other related regional groups from other Study Groups (e.g. SG13 regional group for Africa).

Proposal

Study Group 11 is requested to consider establishing an ITU-T SG11 Regional Group in the Africa region during its Geneva meeting, 27 June – 6 July 2016 according the draft terms of reference (ToR) attached in Annex.

ANNEX

ITU-T STUDY GROUP 11 REGIONAL GROUP FOR AFRICA: TERMS OF REFERENCE

- A. To encourage the active participation of Administrations, regulators and operators of the region in the activities and efforts of ITU-T Study Group 11 (SG11), as well as in the implementation of ITU-T Recommendations;
 - B. To act as a forum, using both face to face meetings as well as electronic communications, for information-sharing related to SG11 activities among local and regional experts from the private sector and the Government;
 - C. To facilitate the broader inclusion and more active participation of African countries in SG11 activities, given the limited abilities to attend SG11 meetings in Geneva;
 - D. To encourage and coordinate participation of African countries in workshops, SG11 Rapporteur meetings and other SG11 events;
 - E. To coordinate and foster the organization of African regional events, e.g. workshops, on SG11 selected emerging topics;
 - F. To strengthen standard-making capabilities of African countries in accordance with Resolution 44 on “Bridging the Standardization Gap” (Rev. Dubai, 2012);
 - G. To identify needs for training and seminars on current ITU-T SG11 standardization areas, hot topics and future technologies which are points of interest for operators, regulatory authorities, vendors and testing laboratories in Africa, and to support the organization of such technical tutorials in the region on such topics, in coordination with ITU-T SG11 and ITU-D as appropriate;
 - H. To identify the regional priorities as they relate to the mandate of SG11, focusing initially on conformance and interoperability (C&I) testing as well as combating counterfeiting of ICT equipment:
 - 1. support regional contributions on C&I issues based on inputs provided by different African parties;
 - 2. support regional contributions on combating counterfeiting based on inputs provided by different African parties , e.g. customs, vendors, regulators, certification bodies, testing laboratories, etc.;
 - 3. involve African stakeholders to participate in ITU-T CASC meetings, fostering their proposals on possible ITU-T Recommendations which may become candidate of the new joint IEC/ITU certification scheme;
 - I. To identify ITU-T Recommendations which are adopted at National level in the African region and therefore propose to develop relevant test specifications when this need is recognised.
 - J. To discuss both traditional and emerging topics in ITU-T SG11 (e.g. VoLTE/ViLTE interconnection), from the African regional perspective, aiming at drafting regional contributions to be submitted to SG11;
 - K. To coordinate the African regional support towards the development of new and revised ITU-T Recommendations focusing on both traditional and emerging areas of interest in SG11;
 - L. To improve liaison and collaboration between the African region and other world regions, through other regional groups and/or the parent group, on relevant standardization matters under the mandate of SG11;
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