IEC-ISO-ITU
Joint Smart Cities Task Force (J-SCTF) Forum
21 June 2021

"ITU-T Study Group Working Methods"

Bilel Jamoussi
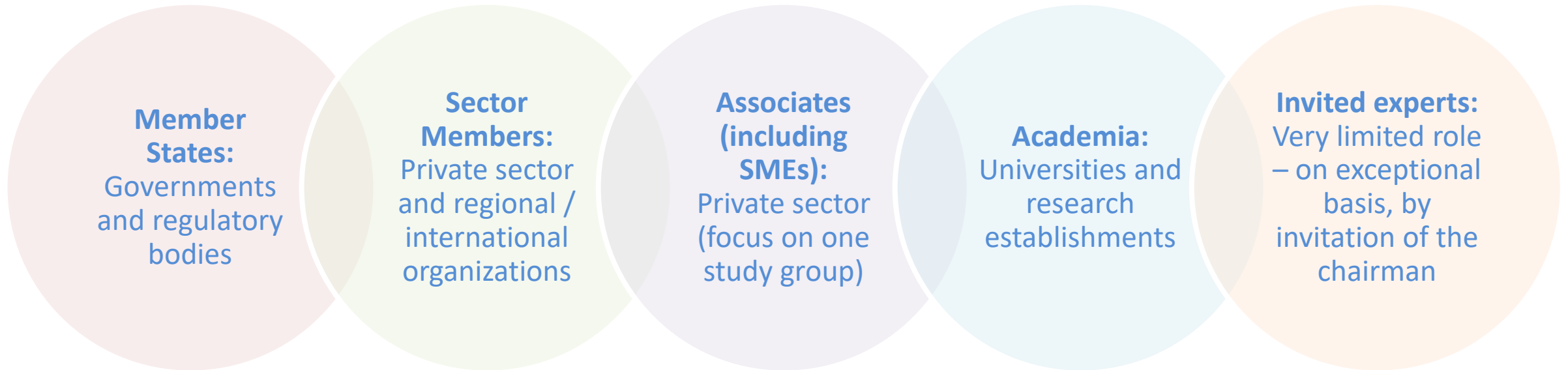**Chief of Study Groups Department**
Telecommunication Standardization Bureau (TSB)
ITU

Membership

Member States: Governments and regulatory bodies

Sector Members: Private sector and regional / international organizations

Associates (including SMEs): Private sector (focus on one study group)

Academia: Universities and research establishments

Invited experts: Very limited role – on exceptional basis, by invitation of the chairman

ITU-T collaboration with other organizations

World Standards Cooperation ISO-IEC-ITU
- Common patent policy & joint events
- Some common or twinned texts with ISO/IEC JTC 1

Global Standards Collaboration
- Supports ITU as preeminent global ICT standards organization

Other ICT standards related organizations:
- Formal liaison relationships
- A.4: Forums and consortia
- A.5: References to documents of organizations outside ITU
- A.6: National and regional standards development organizations

ITU-T: Structure and organization

SG2 - Operational aspects

SG3 - Economic and policy issues

SG5 - Environment and climate change

SG9 - Broadband cable and TV

SG11 - Protocols and test specifications

SG12 - Performance, QoS and QoE

SG13 - Future networks

SG15 - Transport, Access and Home

SG16 - Multimedia

SG17 - Security

SG20 - Internet of Things and smart cities & communities

ITU-T
Where the work gets done in ITU-T

ITU-T Study Groups and other activities work together to drive forward the cross-cutting agenda on global standards development. Ideas, contributions and topics for standardization are dynamic according to market needs and entirely member-driven.

ITU-T: Structure and organization (1/4)

Plenipotentiary Conference:
The highest decision-making body consisting of representatives from each Member State.
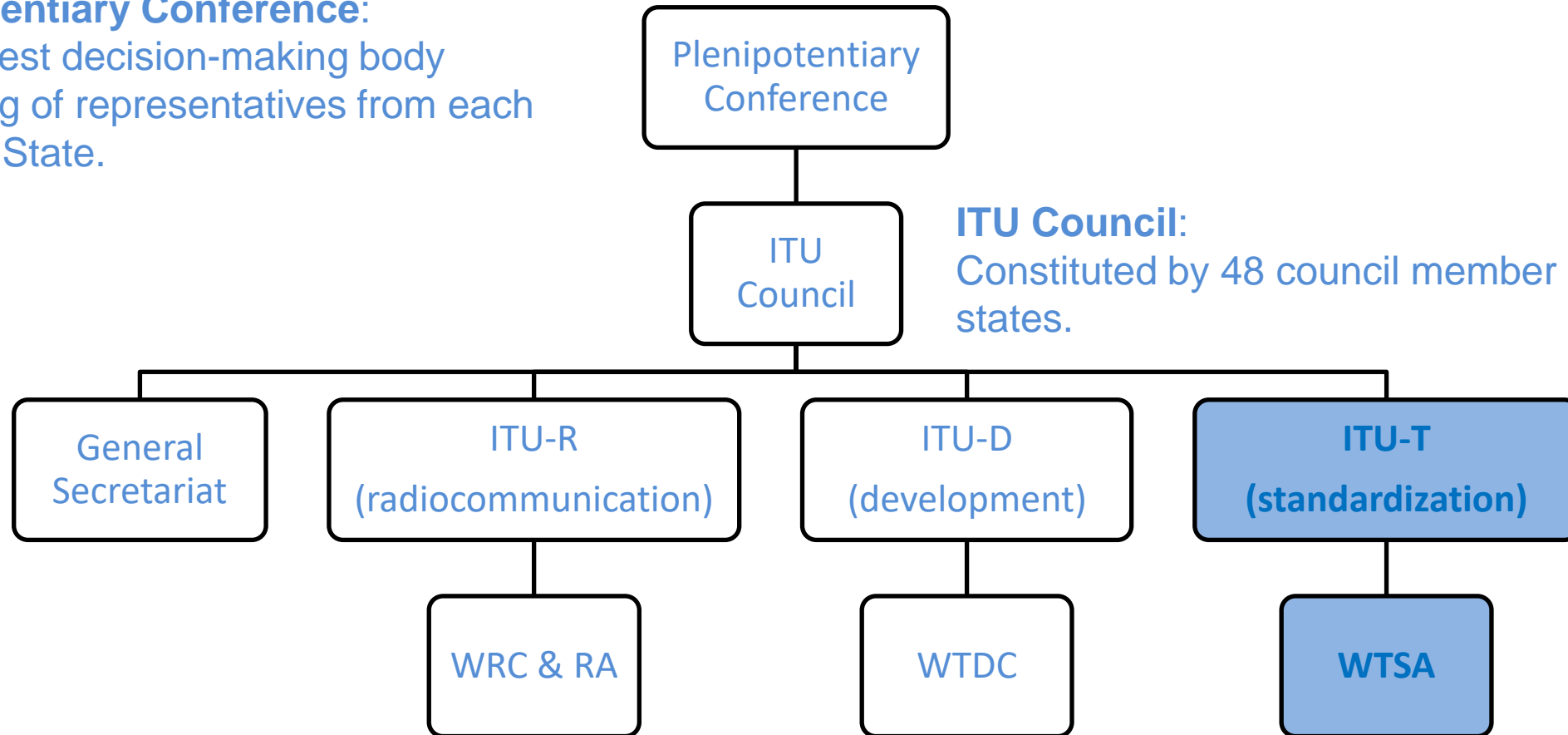
ITU Council:
Constituted by 48 council member states.

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                    │  Plenipotentiary │
                    │    Conference    │
                    └────────┬─────────┘
                             │
                    ┌────────┴─────────┐
                    │       ITU        │
                    │     Council      │
                    └────────┬─────────┘
        ┌──────────┬─────────┼──────────────────┐
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 │  General   │ │     ITU-R       │ │     ITU-D      │ │      ITU-T      │
 │ Secretariat│ │(radiocommunica- │ │ (development)  │ │(standardization)│
 │            │ │     tion)       │ │                │ │                 │
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                    ┌─────┴────┐       ┌─────┴────┐        ┌─────┴────┐
                    │ WRC & RA │       │   WTDC   │        │   WTSA   │
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ITU-T: Structure and organization (2/4)

The **World Telecommunication Standardization Assembly** normally meets every four years to set the strategic direction for ITU-T's work.

The **ITU-T study groups** carry out standards development work within the topics described by their mandates.

The **Telecommunication Standardization Advisory Group** meets regularly between assemblies to coordinate the work of the Sector.
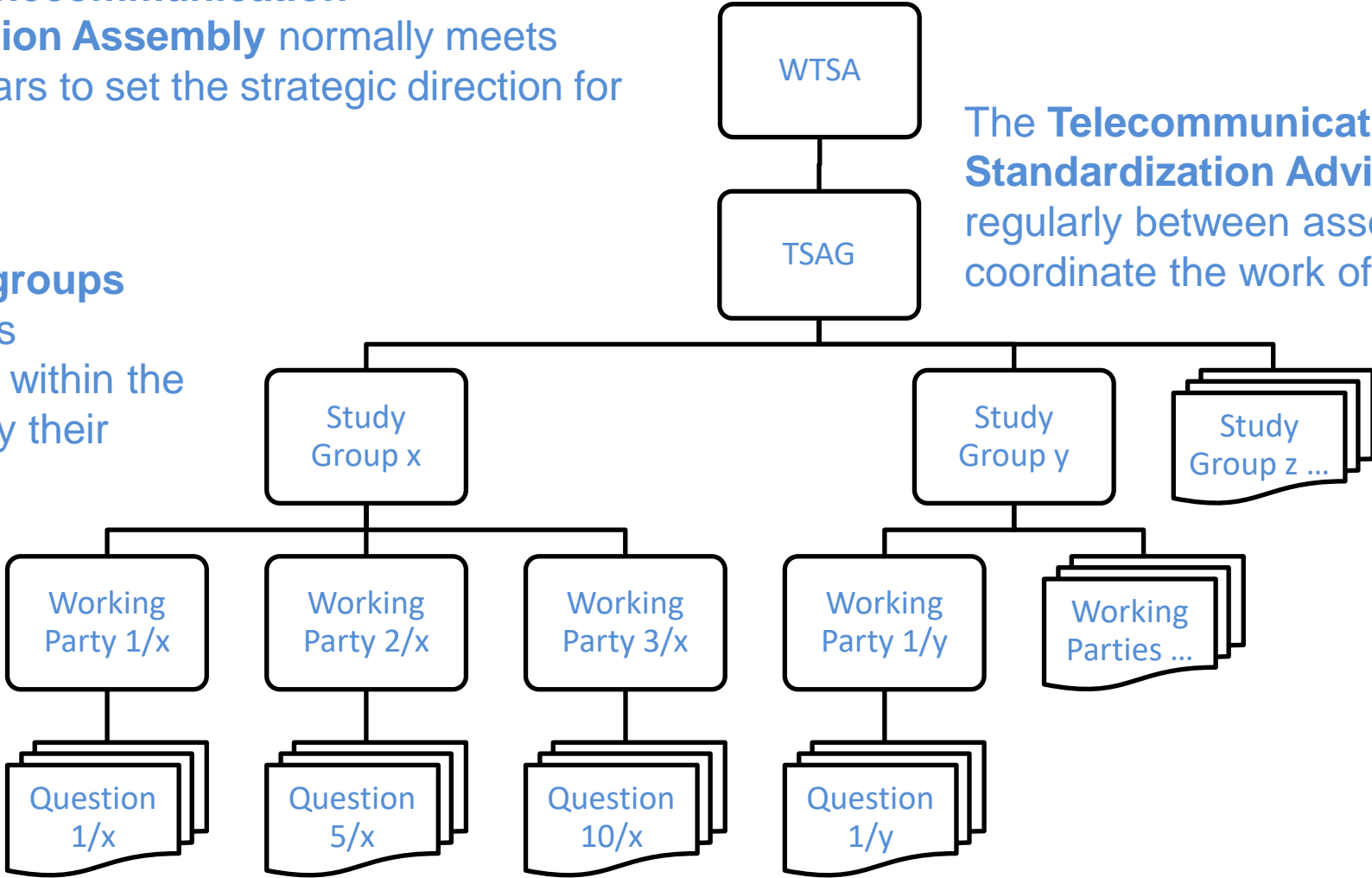
Main publications: ITU-T Recommendations

Normative texts; **Approved** by members:

- Recommendations (international standards)

- Grouped into themed series

- Compliance only mandatory after adoption in law

- Developed at the request of membership

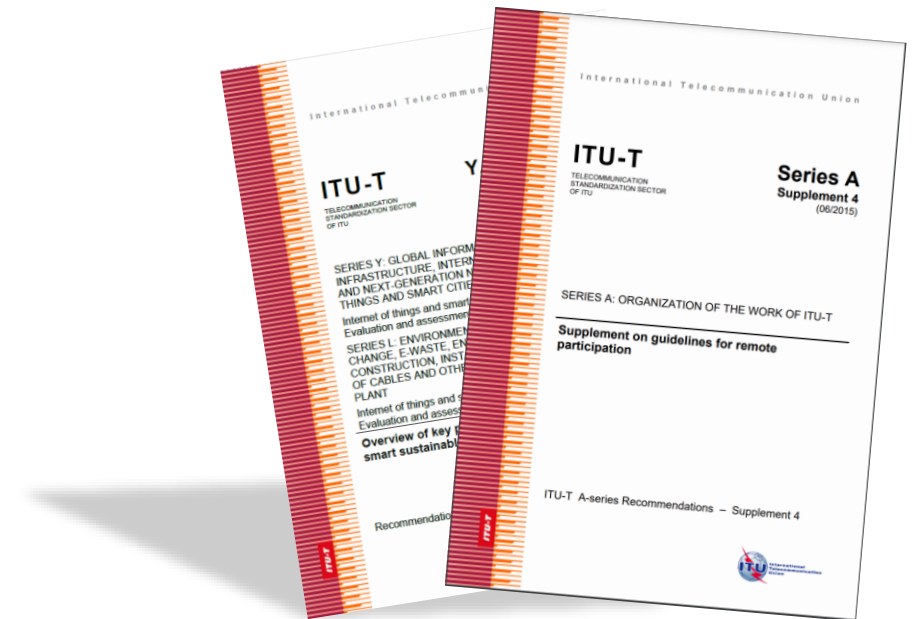- Maintained through amendments, corrigenda and revisions

The published versions of most Recommendations are available
to everyone, free of charge.

Other publications (non-normative)

Non-normative texts; **Agreed** by members:

- Supplements

- Implementers' guides

- Technical reports and technical papers
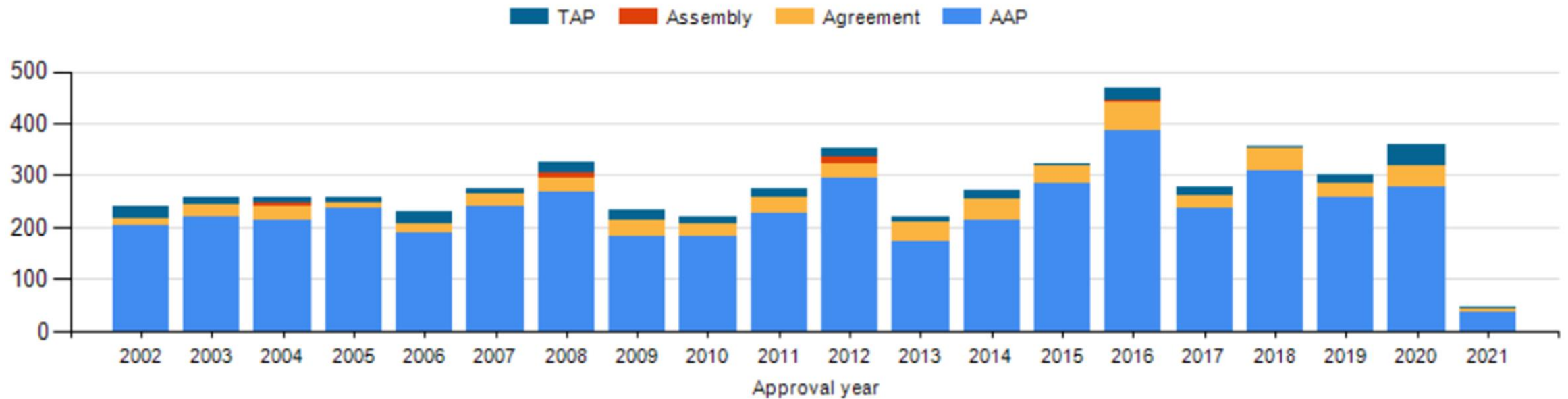
- Focus group deliverables

- Ad-hoc publications

Most texts undergo editorial review by TSB prior to publication.
In the meantime, the unedited versions are pre-published for ITU-T experts only.

Work item life cycle
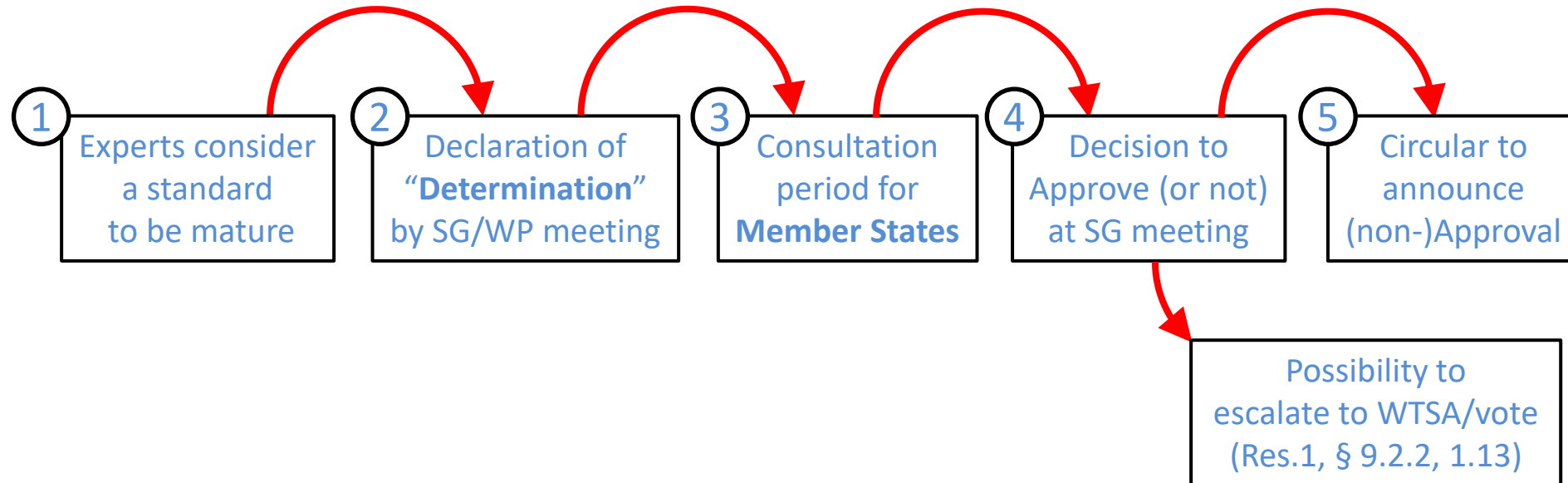
Decision-making in ITU-T

1. Consensus-building ensures win-win decisions

2. Avoid voting (limited to Member States)

3. Soft decisions (agreement, determination, etc.)

4. Definitive decisions are often quantifiable
    (70% affirmation of Member State consultation, etc.)

5. Approval processes:

    a) Traditional Approval Process (**TAP**): Policy or regulatory standards

    b) Alternative Approval Process (**AAP**): Technical standards

    c) World Telecommunication Standardization Assembly (**WTSA**):
        Sensitive or difficult standards

    d) Study group **Agreement** of other (non-normative) texts
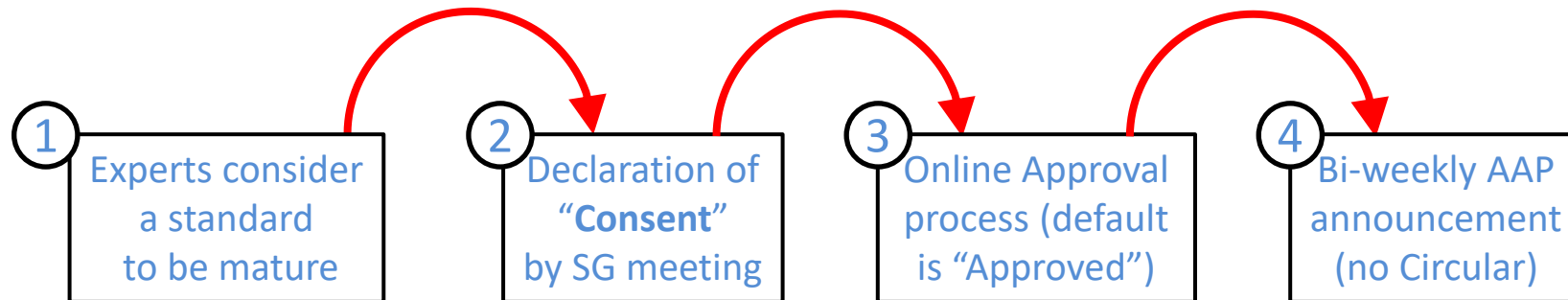
Approvals in numbers

Approved Recommendations and Supplements since the 1st Jan 2001

Traditional Approval Process (TAP): Regulatory and policy issues

1 Experts consider a standard to be mature	2 Declaration of "**Determination**" by SG/WP meeting	3 Consultation period for **Member States**	4 Decision to Approve (or not) at SG meeting	5 Circular to announce (non-)Approval

Possibility to
escalate to WTSA/vote
(Res.1, § 9.2.2, 1.13)

Alternative Approval Process AAP: Quick and flexible

1 — Experts consider a standard to be mature

2 — Declaration of "**Consent**" by SG meeting

3 — Online Approval process (default is "Approved")

4 — Bi-weekly AAP announcement (no Circular)

Agreement: For non-normative texts

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  │ Experts     │            │  Declaration of      │
  │ consider    │  ───────▶  │  "Approval (by       │
  │ a text      │            │  Agreement)"         │
  │ to be mature│            │  by study group      │
  │             │            │  meeting             │
  └─────────────┘            └──────────────────────┘
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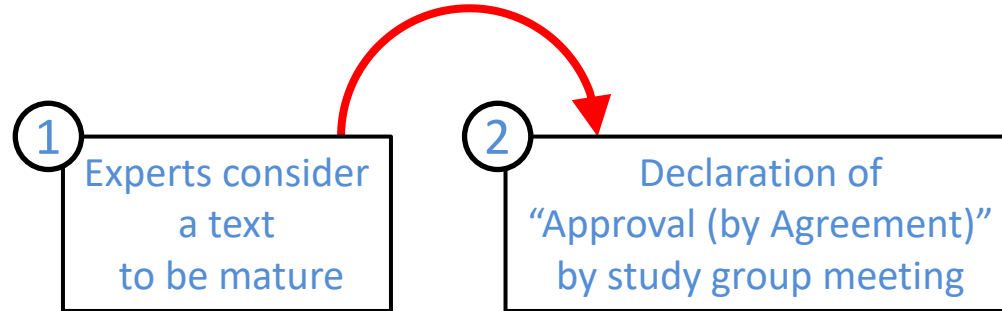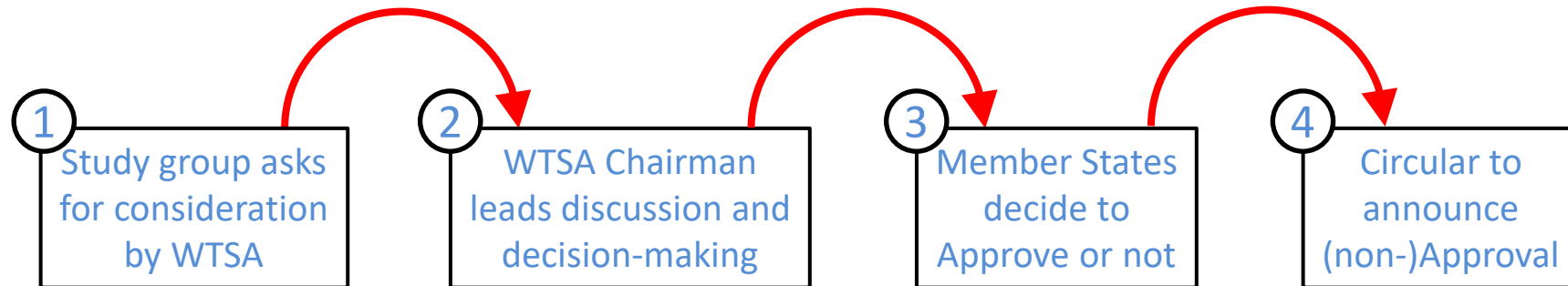
Non-normative (or "informative") texts include:

1. Supplements

2. Implementers' guides

3. Handbooks

4. Technical reports
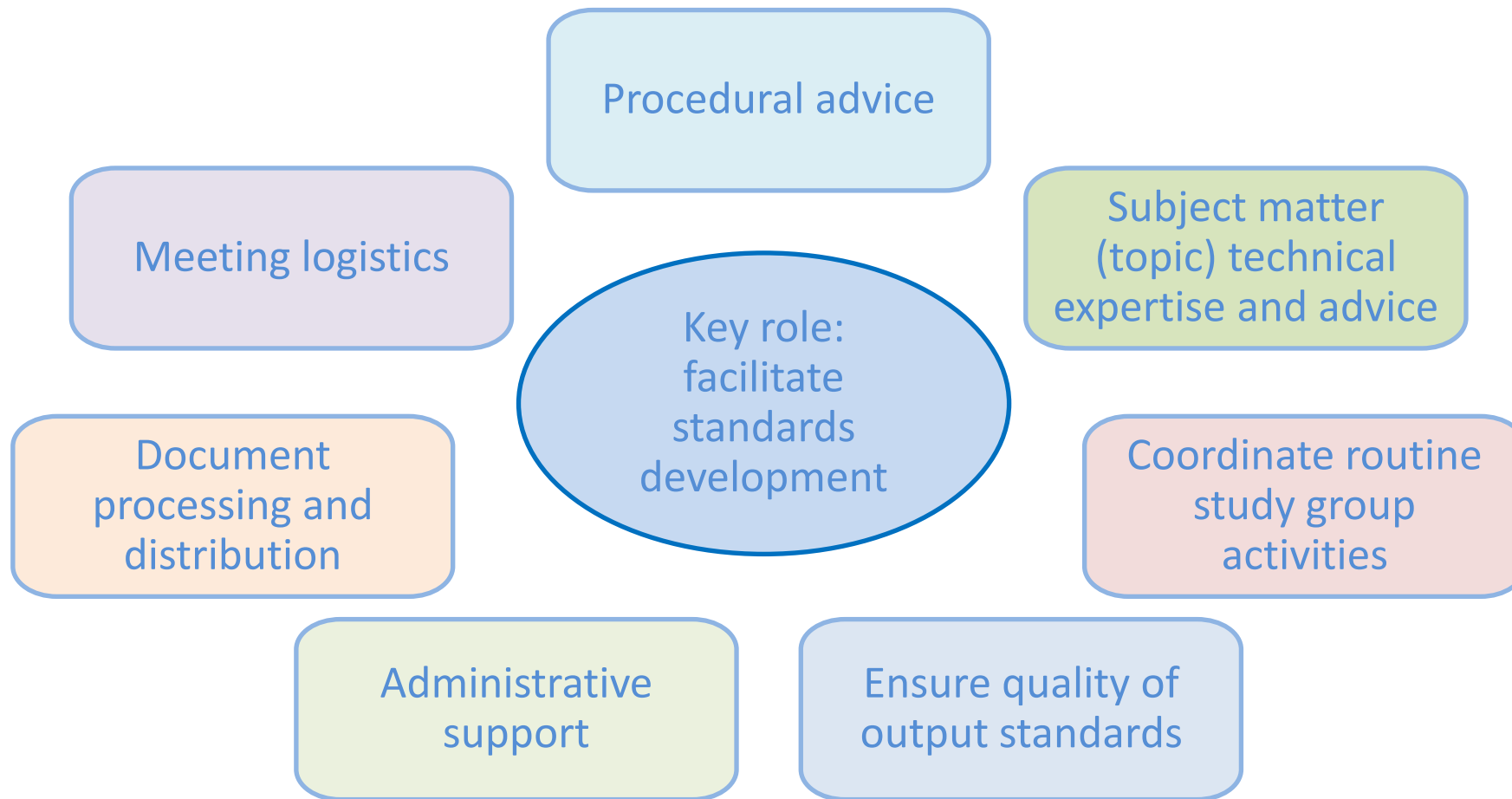
5. Technical papers

6. Appendices

WTSA: Full decision-making power

1 Study group asks for consideration by WTSA

2 WTSA Chairman leads discussion and decision-making

3 Member States decide to Approve or not

4 Circular to announce (non-)Approval

Key leadership roles

1. Study group Chairmen / Vice-chairmen
2. Working party Chairmen / Vice-chairmen
3. Rapporteurs
4. Liaison representatives
5. Editors
6. TSB Secretariat

Secretariat services

Procedural advice

Subject matter (topic) technical expertise and advice

Meeting logistics

Key role: facilitate standards development

Document processing and distribution

Coordinate routine study group activities

Administrative support

Ensure quality of output standards

Thank you
Any questions?