

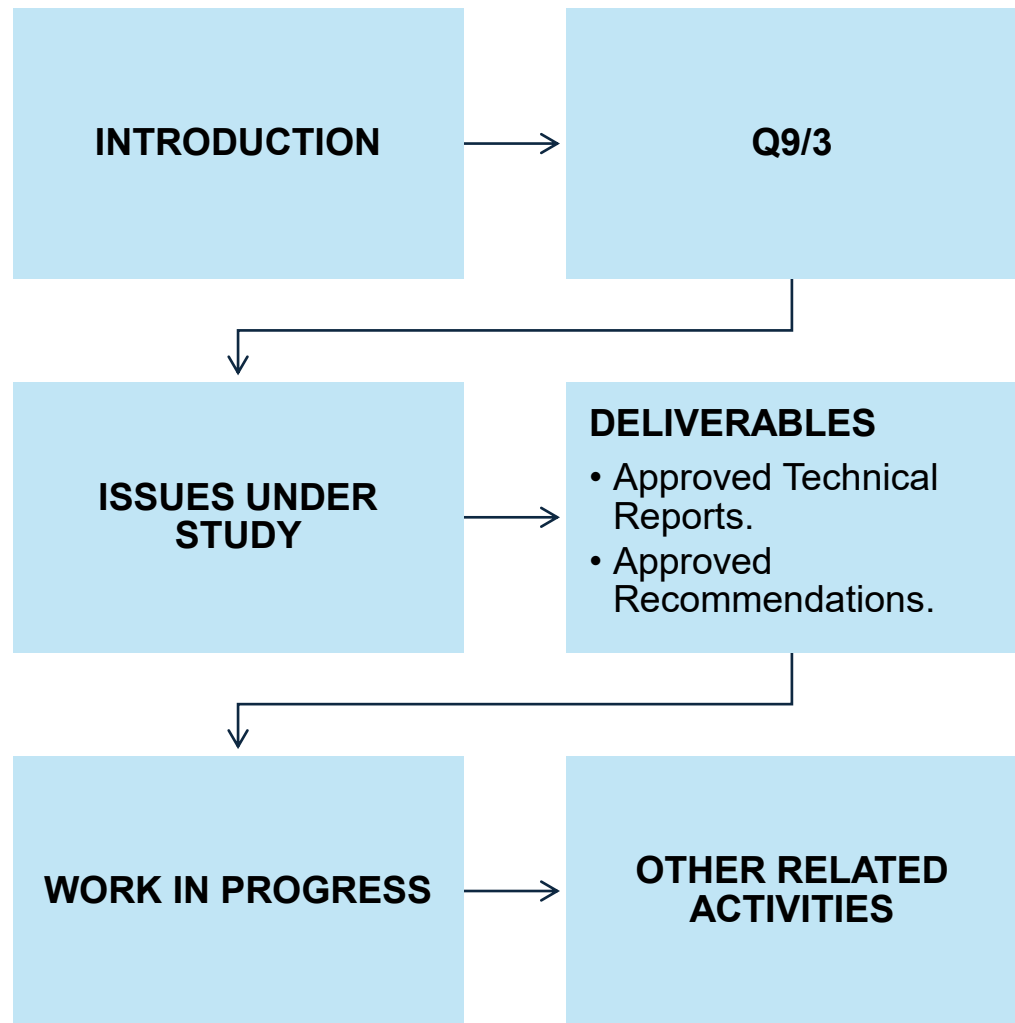


'creating a level playing field'

OTTS AND RELATED SERVICES – STATE OF PLAY IN ITU-T

**By: HILDA MUTSEYEKWA
RAPPORTEUR Q9/3
ITU-T SG3**

CONTENTS



INTRODUCTION

ITU-T SG3 Broad mandate:

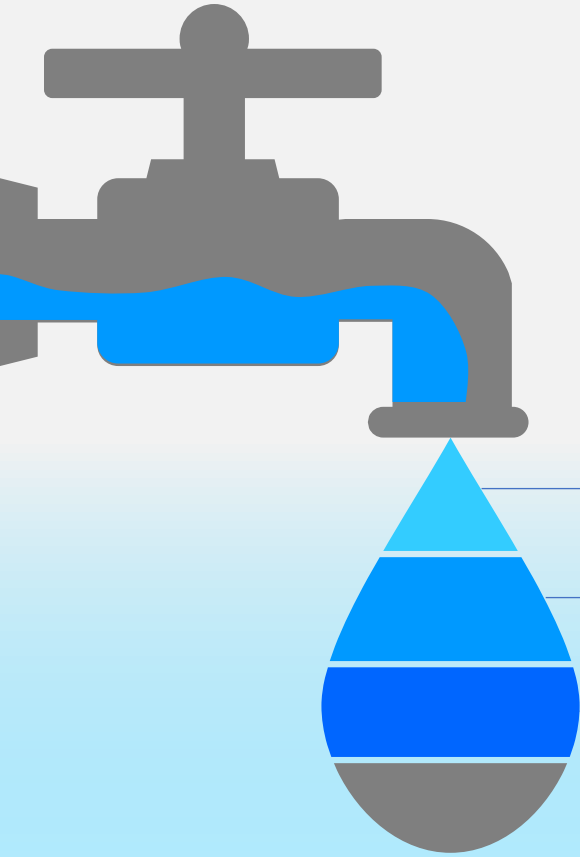
- ✓ Tariff and accounting principles and international telecommunication/ICT economic and policy issues.
- ✓ Also to study the economic impact, and the policy and regulatory aspects of the Internet, new and emerging technologies, convergence (services or infrastructure) and new services, such as OTT, pertaining to international telecommunication/ICT services and networks.

OTT specific Question:

- ✓ Question 9/3 – Economic and policy aspects of the Internet, convergence (services or infrastructure) and OTTs in the context of international telecommunication/ICT services and networks



Question 9/3

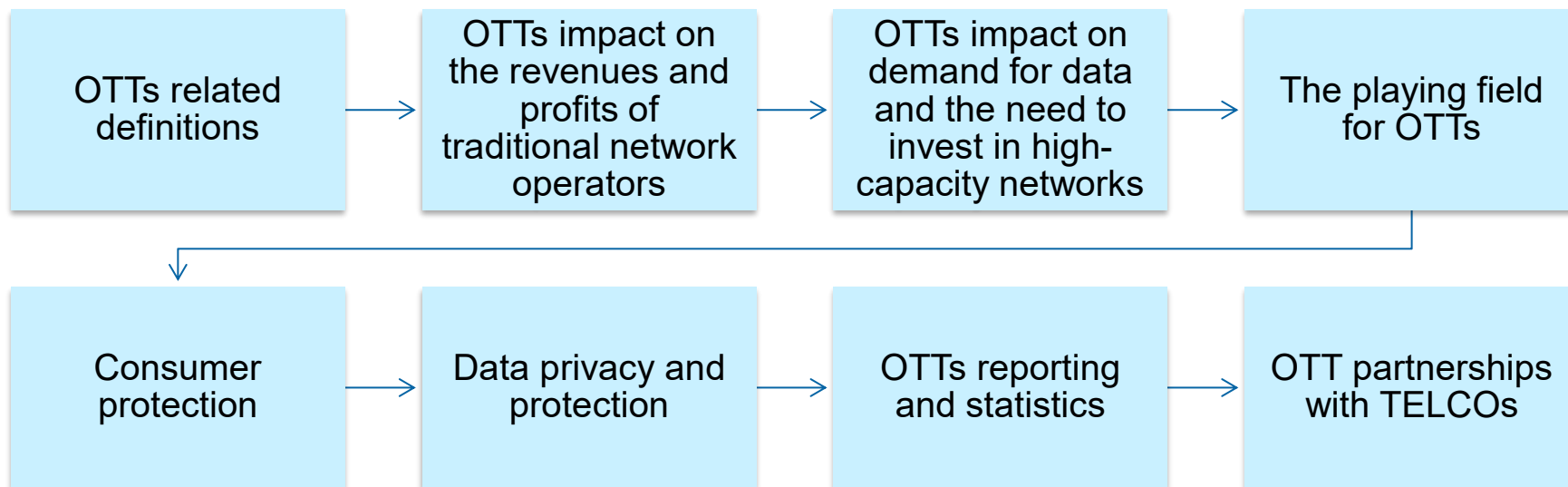


Study the economic and regulatory aspects of the Internet, convergence, OTTs, and international telecommunication networks and services, at both regional and international levels, with explicit consideration on the impact to developing countries.

Terms and definitions for Recommendations or studies dealing with this Question.

Studies related to regional context are to be carried out on a regional basis by the regional groups of ITU-T Study Group 3 and the results should be developed in the form of new or revised D.300R to D.800R-series Recommendations.

KEY ISSUES UNDER STUDY



Deliverables: Approved Technical Reports

Technical Report - Economic impact of OTTs.

DSTR-STUDY_DRCI Dispute resolution between telecommunication operators and providers OTTs.

July 2024

2017

July 2024

Technical Report on OTT Bypass (July 2024) - describes OTT bypass* and provides an economic and policy background on its nature and implications and discusses impact on various stakeholders.



'creating a level playing field'

Approved Recommendations:

Recommendation ITU-T D.262: Collaborative framework for OTTs

Recommendation ITU-T D.1101: Enabling environment for voluntary commercial arrangements between telecommunication network operators and OTT providers

Recommendation ITU-T D.1102: Customer redress and consumer protection mechanisms for OTTs

Regional Recommendation ITU-T D.608R: OTT Voice Bypass (AFR)

Regional Recommendation ITU-T D.7006: Principles for dealing with OTTs. (ARB)



WORK IN PROGRESS

D.OTTBypass (pending since 2018)

D. Guidelines on Potential Cost Contribution mechanisms between OTT service providers and telecom network service operators towards the expansion and development of high-capacity telecom networks (NWI created in 2024)

New TR-STUDY_OTTs – Study on policy, regulatory, and economic aspects of OTTs in the context of international telecommunication/ICT services and networks (update of Technical Report on Economic Impact of OTTs (2017))



WORK IN PROGRESS Cont..

- Draft new Technical Report ITU-T DSTROTTReporting "Establishing International Reporting Standards for OTT Applications" (to be tabled for agreement Agreement).
- Explores the possible harmonization of reporting standards for OTT applications and provide guidelines on the indicators, definitions for OTT applications; Also, provides case studies on current regulatory frameworks for data reporting for OTTs.
- Regional Technical Report (LAC) on OTTs Impact on Telecommunications Network Investment: started Sept 2022.



WORK IN PROGRESS



OTT DEFINITIONS

The issue of OTT definitions has been straining progress of OTT related work items namely TR_OTT bypass; Draft new Rec on OTT Bypass, including the new Technical Report on Study OTTs.

Nearing agreement on OTT Bypass : “Redirecting of terminating traffic from PSTN\PLMN onto Over-the-Top applications and in reverse direction.” Coordination Committee on Terminology (CCT) agreed on 2 Feb 2026.

Similar definition in ITU-T D.608 R (2022):

SG3 in agreement and will give feedback to SG2



OTT Definitions

Discussion ongoing with SG2 on definition of OTTs through a joint Rapporteur Group Meetings (RGMs) of Q3/2 and Q9/3



First meeting held virtually on **30 June 2025**,



Next joint Q3/2 and Q9/3 Rapporteur Group Meeting (RGM) on the topic of OTT-related definitions on **30 June 2026**, ahead of the next SG3 meeting



ISSUES

- loose definition of OTTs in the technical report of 2017
- Contributions submitted to the Joint RGM under ITU-T SG2 Work item E.100 3 which speaks on traditional telephony terminology,



WORK IN PROGRESS Cont...

Divergent proposals on the way to go

OTT related definitions to be included in under E.100, as a Supplement

a collaborative approach to develop a new Recommendation with collocated E-series and D-series numbering, jointly studied by SG2 and SG3.

Develop a new Y/H-series Recommendation—developed under SG13 or SG21—could provide the technical and architectural definitions of OTT services and platforms.



OTHER RELATED WORK

Workshop on "economic and fiscal incentives to accelerate digital transformation of data and applications over telecommunication infrastructure" which took place from 3 to 4 November 2022 at ITU headquarters in Geneva, Switzerland.

The World Telecommunication Standardization Assembly (New Delhi, 2024) in line with Resolution 68, requests the Director of TSB to convene workshops preferably back to back with relevant Study Group meetings that bring together stakeholders in the OTT ecosystem, and report progress of workshop outcomes to TSAG.





**THANK
YOU**