



# ITU Workshop on "Onboarding Africa in ITU-T Study Group 15 Standardization Process"

Fully virtual, 19 May 2026

**Bridging the Standardization Gap (BSG)**

**Rob Clark (TSB)  
BSG Programme Coordinator**

# Today's objectives

- Introduction to BSG
- Regional groups
- Contributions

10:30 - 12:30	<p><b>Session 1 Bridging the Standardization Gap (BSG)</b></p> <p>This session is proposed to be delivered by both TSB and one or two experts on BSG related matters, including on to better engage in SG15. BSG was usually being delivered by TSB, involving SG15 experts would complement the efforts and add new layer of insights</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>1. BSG presentation, Robert Clark (TSB)</li><li>2. Presentation on what is needed to get involved in SG15 standardization:<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- Presentation 1, Wei Su (Huawei)</li><li>- Presentation 2, Xiang Yun (CICT)</li><li>- Q&amp;A</li></ul></li></ul>
12:30-13:30	Break
13:30-15:30	<p><b>Session 2 current advances in SG15 standardization</b></p> <p>This session is a technical session, dedicated to SG15 experts from all questions, to showcase development in standardization</p> <p>Welcome: Glenn Parsons, Chair, ITU-T SG15</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>1. Overview, Hiroshi Ota (TSB)</li><li>2. WP1 activities, Tony Zeng (Huawei)</li><li>3. WP2 activities, Dai Jing (CICT)</li><li>4. WP3 activities, Stephen Shew (Ciena Canada)</li></ul> <p>Q&amp;A</p>

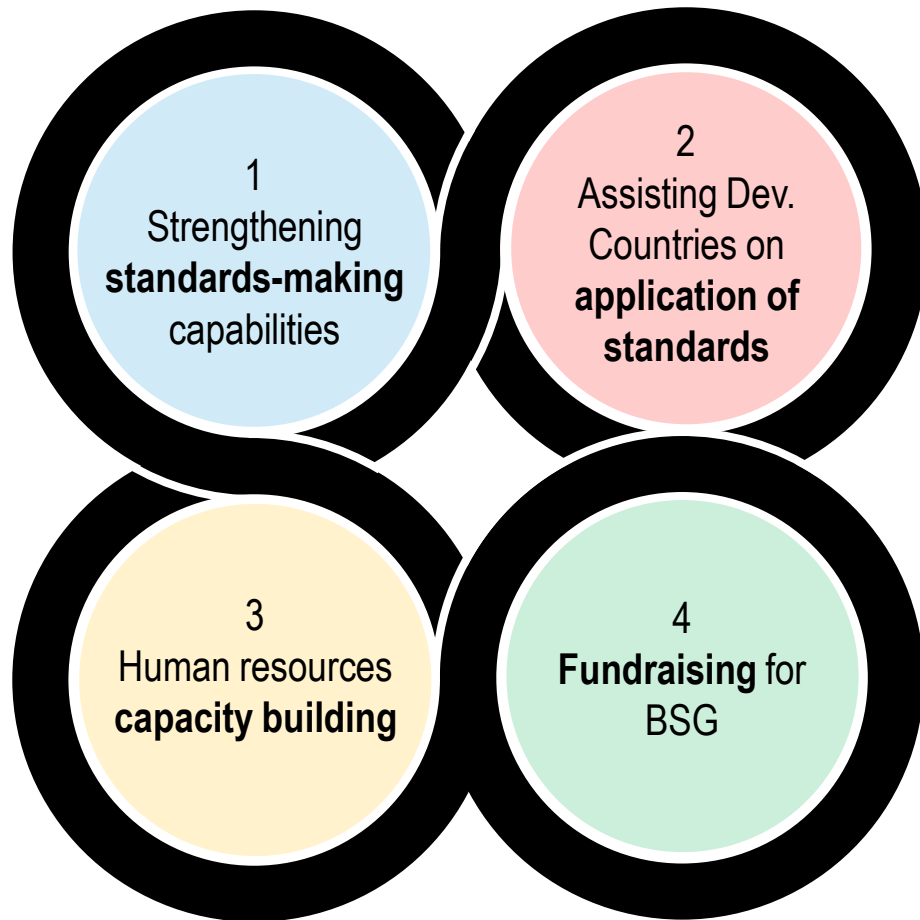


# **Introduction to Bridging the Standardization Gap (BSG)**



# WTSA Resolution 44, *Bridging the standardization gap between developing and developed countries*

- Regional groups.
- Fellowships.
- Language support.
- Tools/services.
- Mentoring.



- Online & F2F.
- Study groups & regional groups.
- Working methods & **technical training**.
- Regional/national.
- On demand.

Increasing collaboration with ITU-D:

- **Top down** (National Standards Strategy).
- **Bottom up** (identify & implement relevant standards).

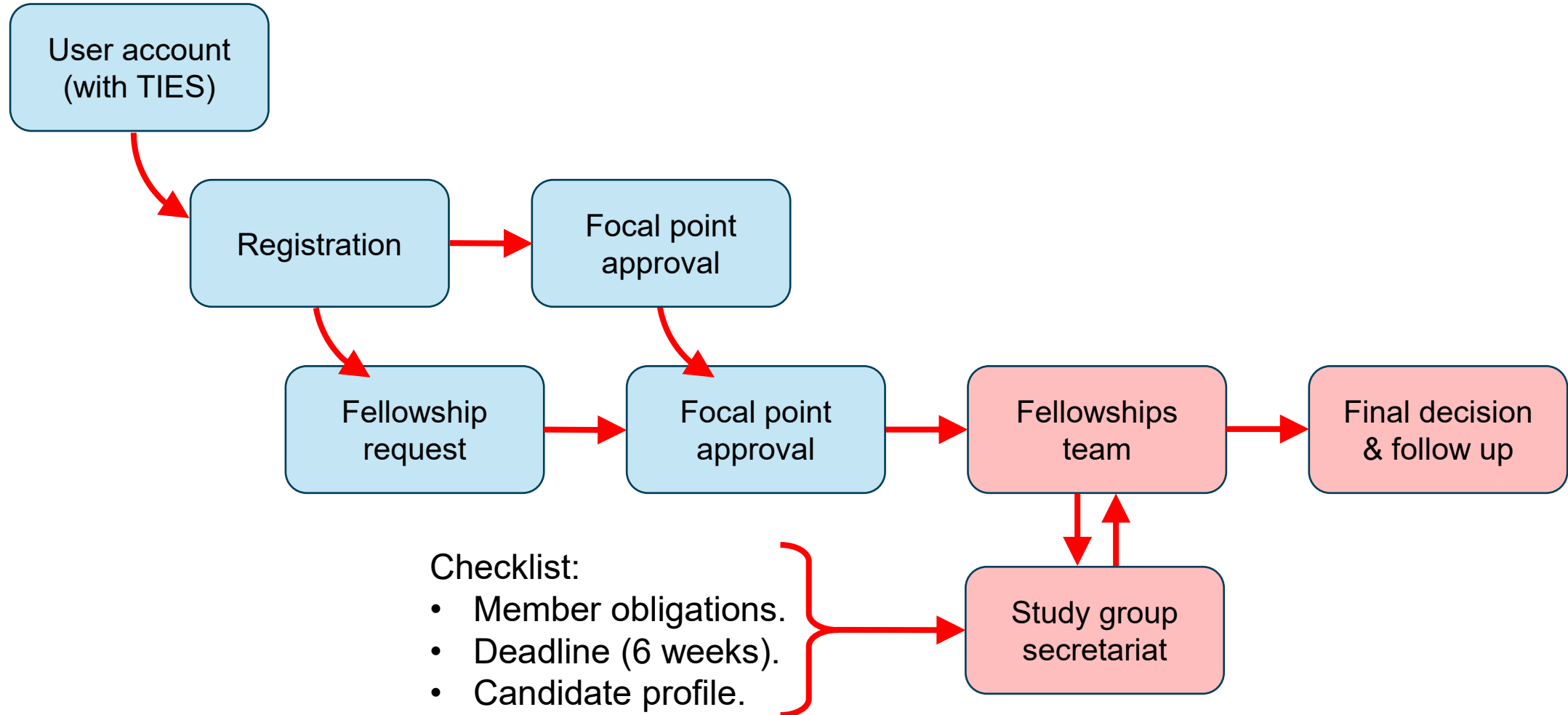
Sponsorship & hosting:  
Australia, Bhutan, Cambodia, China,  
India, Japan, Malaysia, Qatar...



# Fellowships

- Funding to encourage **continuity of participation in ITU-T activities**.
- Partial Fellowships cover **either travel or daily subsistence**.
- **Criteria:**
  - **Developing countries**, including LDCs, SIDS, landlocked and in transition.
  - Member State must satisfy **obligations** for participation.
  - Registration and Fellowship **requests must be approved** by MS focal point(s).
  - Professional background and position; long-term commitment to ITU's work; academic and language proficiency; leadership potential; contributions.
  - Equitable allocation: country, region, gender, delegates with specific needs.
- **Details**, including deadlines, can be found in the **meeting announcement**.

# Fellowships workflow





# Language support

- The six official languages of ITU are: **Arabic, Chinese, English, French, Russian and Spanish.**
- In practice, ITU-T works primarily in **English.**
- **Translation** (written word):
  - Human translation for selected documents (extremely high quality).
  - Automatic machine translation of meeting documents.
  - On-demand machine translation via MyWorkspace.
- **Interpretation** (spoken word) is provided for selected sessions.
- **Captioning:**
  - Human captioning on request, e.g., when accessibility is discussed.
  - Automatic captioning, if supported by remote participation platforms.



# Gender mainstreaming in ITU-T



# What are gender-responsive standards?

Standards developed using a **gender lens** so that they **consider gender differences**, avoid biases, and ensure that products, services, and technologies meet the needs of females and males equally.

Incorporating diverse perspectives in standards **should not be seen as an “additional task”**, but rather as a pervading attitude of openness and inclusiveness in the spirit of the United Nations.

# Empowering Women in Standardization & ICT Sector

## What is NoW in ITU-T?

Initiative open to men and women, focused on promoting gender equality in standards

## Mandate

- [ITU Plenipotentiary Res.70 \(Rev. Bucharest 2022\)](#)
- [WTSA Res.55 \(Rev. New Delhi 2024\)](#)

## Terms of Reference



1

Increase women's participation in ITU-T meetings

2

Encourage women to step up into **leadership roles**

3

Recognize **achievements**

4

Build a supportive **community**

5

Raise **awareness** on gender disparities in the ICT sector

## Let's grow the Network together!

- Join our [mailing list](#): (\*Free ITU account required – Create **one**) by visiting our homepage (please **scan the QR code**)
- Learn more at [itu.int/go/NOWT](https://itu.int/go/NOWT)
- Contact us at [NoW-T@itu.int](mailto:NoW-T@itu.int)



# Network of Women

Telecommunication Standardization Sector



5 GENDER EQUALITY





# ITU-T delegate training – Content

Based on ITU-T A.1, WTSA Resolution 1, and more:

- **Newcomer training:**
  - Getting started, structure and organization of ITU-T.
  - Meetings and documents, including Contributions.
  - Roles and responsibilities.
  - Work item lifecycle, decision-making, electronic working methods.
- **Advanced:**
  - Approval, preparing documents, terms and definitions.
  - Telecommunication Standardization Advisory Group (TSAG).
  - Intellectual Property Rights.
- **Leadership team:**
  - Building consensus.
  - Preparing for and running meetings.



# **The Role of Regional Groups**



## Regional groups

- WTSA Resolution 54 supports the creation of regional groups of the study groups.
- Regional groups **encourage participation**, particularly among **developing countries**, focusing on **regional issues**.
- Regional group meetings foster discussion, consensus-building and collaboration, e.g., **joint Contributions to parent study group meetings**.
- Normally meet **< 2 months from next parent group** meeting.
- Meeting **in person** is highly preferred.
- Unlike study groups, regional groups are not linked to a specific study period, their mandate and leadership team continue until a decision is made to change.



# Current regional groups



**Africa**



**Americas**



**Arab Region**



**Asia & Pacific**



**EECAT**



**Europe**

SG2RG-AFR

SG2RG-AMR

SG2RG-ARB

SG3RG-AFR

SG3RG-LAC

SG3RG-ARB

SG3RG-AO

SG3RG-EECAT

SG3RG-EURM

SG5RG-AFR

SG5RG-LATAM

SG5RG-ARB

SG5RG-AP

SG11RG-AFR

SG11RG-EECAT

SG12RG-AFR

SG12RG-AMR

SG13RG-AFR

SG13RG-EECAT

**SG15RG-AFR** *New!*

SG17RG-AFR

SG17RG-ARB

SG20RG-AFR

SG20RG-LATAM

SG20RG-ARB

SG20RG-AP

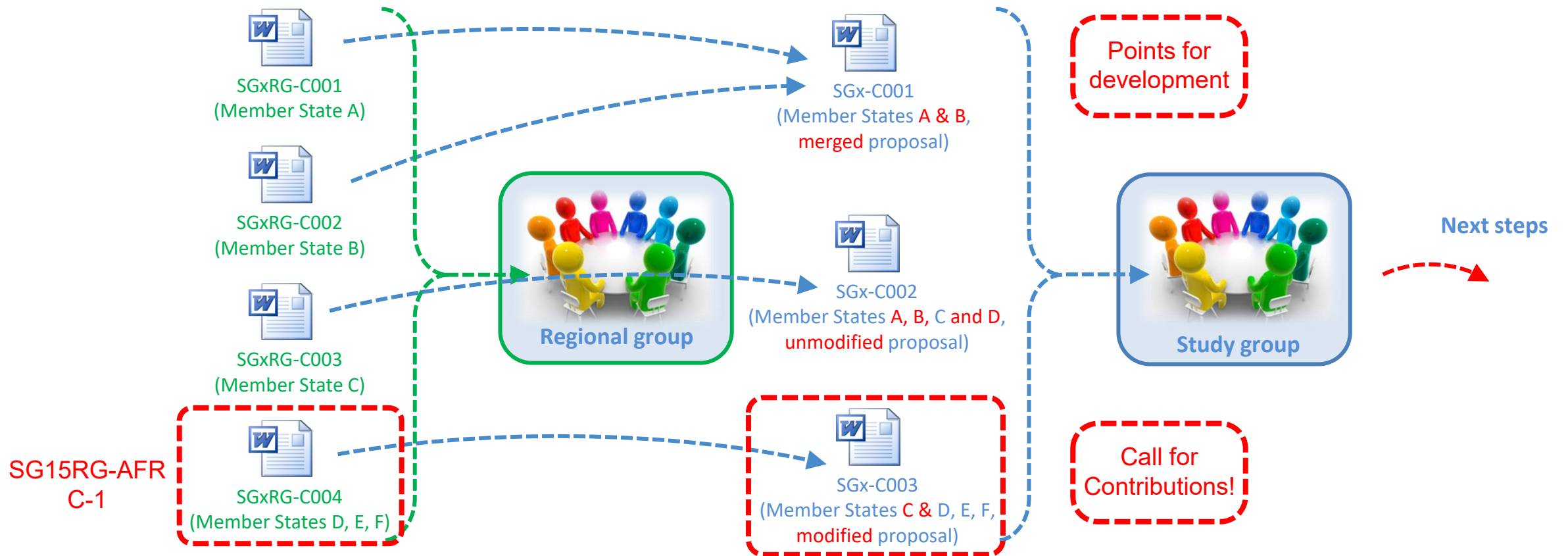
SG20RG-EECAT



## SG15RG-AFR: Terms of Reference

- Encouraging **active participation** in ITU-T SG15 (including **RGMs**).
- Supporting African candidates for ITU-T SG15 **leadership** roles.  
(expertise -> technical leadership -> strategic leadership)
- Identifying **deployment challenges** of ITU-T SG15 Recommendations.
- **Training**: Standards development & optical technologies.
- Promoting ITU-T SG15 deliverables aligned with **African priorities**.
- **Leveraging synergies** with African telecom / standardization bodies.
- Creating **discussion** spaces (such as this workshop, expert community...).
  
- NOTE: SG15RG-AFR **does not** develop regional standards.

# Contribution flow: Regional group to study group



1) Regional group Contributions (individual)

2) Regional group Discussions/Ad hocs

3) Plans to modify & co-sign Contributions

4) Study group Contributions (so-signed)

5) Study group Discussions



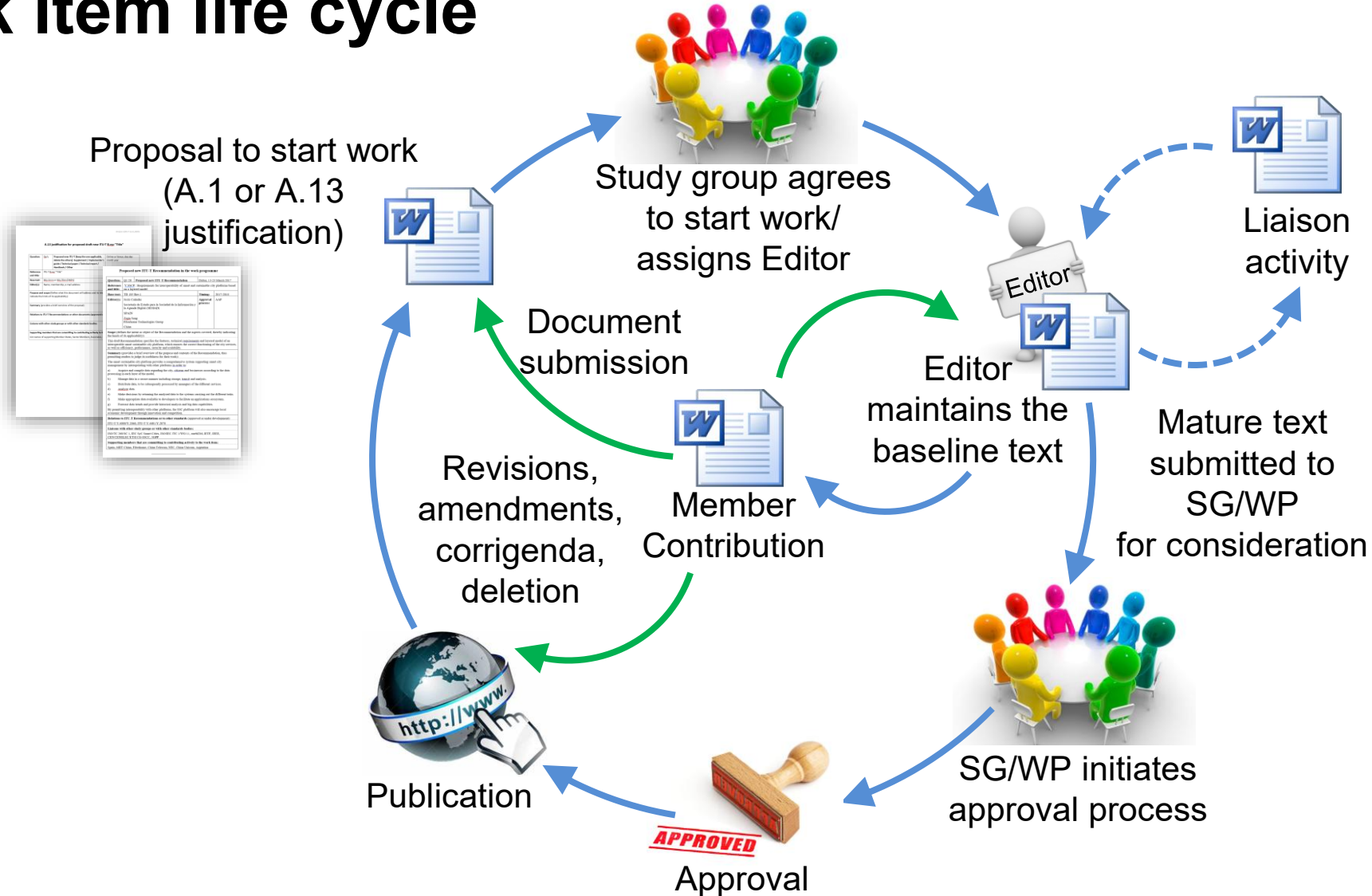
## Ways to engage

- Providing **feedback and responses** to Contributions from other experts.
- Following up during and after the meeting:
  - Becoming **Editor** (or other leadership role).
  - Engaging in **offline discussions/ad hocs**.
  - **Participating** in the evolution of the work.
- **Responding** to requests from the Director of TSB (or regional group). (e.g., TAP consultations, **questionnaires**, etc.).
- Proposing **new work items, modification, initiatives**.
- **Hosting meetings** or other events.

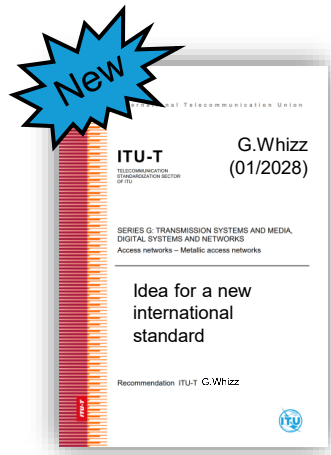


## **Importance of Contributions in ITU-T**

# Work item life cycle



# What can Contributions contain?



## Proposed new work items:

- Recommendations.
- Supplements.
- Other publications.

## Inputs related to existing work items:

- Changes to existing standards.
- Edits to under study work items.
- Support for other proposals.

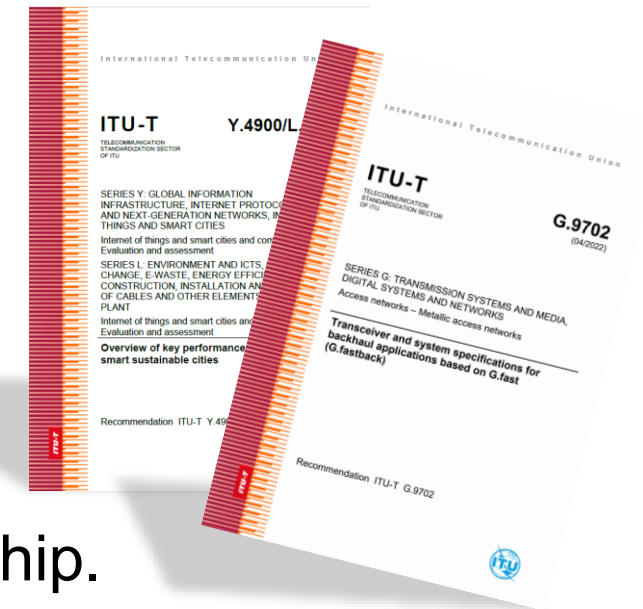
## Organization/working methods:

- Create/modify/delete Questions.
- Create ad-hoc or focus group (including Terms of Reference).

# Main work items: ITU-T Recommendations

Normative texts; **Approved** by members:

- Recommendations (international standards).
- Grouped into themed series.
- Compliance only mandatory after adoption in law.
- Developed by membership, at the request of membership.
- Maintained through amendments, corrigenda and revisions.
- Published Recommendations are available to everyone, free of charge.
- Approved texts undergo editorial review by TSB prior to publication.  
In the meantime, unedited versions are pre-published for ITU-T experts only.



# Other work items (non-normative)

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

- Supplements.
- Implementers' guides.
- Technical reports and technical papers.
- Focus group deliverables.
- Ad-hoc publications.



Non-normative publications are described in ITU-T A.13.

# Identifying objectives





# Identifying objectives: Previous documentation

SG15 - Networks, technologies and infrastructures for transport, access and home

YOU ARE HERE ITU > HOMEPAGE > ITU-T > STUDY GROUPS > STUDY PERIOD 2025 - 2028 > SG15

SHARE [Facebook] [Twitter] [LinkedIn] [Email]

Tools Documentation News

- Create/manage ITU account (TIES & Guest)
- ITU-T SG15 SharePoint collaboration site
- Informal FTP area and mailing lists archives
- Delegate resources
- Electronic Working Methods (EWM)
- Document sync tool
- ITU-T Recommendation number allocation list
- ITU-T Recommendation series structure
- Standards Q&A

Special Topics Related Groups Past Periods

Registration - Assignment

- Uniform Resource Names (URN) management (updated on 18 November 2020)

**MEETING IN FOCUS**  
Montreal, 29 June - 10 July 2026

- Announcement
- Registration
- Information on requirements to enter into Canada
- Invitation letter request form
- Montreal information
- Tenth Joint IEEE 802 and ITU-T Study Group 15 Workshop – Emerging standards in the AI/ML world - Workshop Registration
- 2026 July IEEE 802 Plenary
- Fellowship form
- Meeting room allocation | Mobile friendly version
- Remote participation [Guides: delegates | moderators]
- Captioning October 2025: Live captioning - File Opening Plenary - File Closing Plenary
- Webcast: Live | Archives

**MEETING DOCUMENTS**

- Recently posted | Search
- Documents [July 2026] All Docs - Cs - TDs - LS In
- Documents [October 2025] All Docs - Cs - TDs - LS In Plenary meeting photos
- Documents [March 2025] All Docs - Cs - TDs - LS In Plenary meeting photos
- All SG & WP Meetings and Consolidated lists
- Informal FTP area (IFA) | RGM platform documents
- Direct Document Posting (to submit Contributions)
- Document Templates
- Author's Guide

**TECHNICAL FLYERS**

- Flyers from Questions 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 10, 11, 13 and 14/15 are available here

**Approved deliverables**

- Recommendations
- Technical papers
- Focus Groups

**Selected Workshops**

Executive Summary, SG15, October 2025





**Work Programme database**

**Last executive summary**  
2025-10 - 2025-03 - 2024-07





# Identifying objectives: Work Programme database

ITU-T work programme



YOU ARE HERE [HOME](#) > [ITU-T WORK PROGRAMME](#) SHARE    

Study period:  Status:  Pending SG/WP confirmation  
 Under study  
 Consented / Determined  
 Deferred to WTSA  
 Approved  
 Discontinued  
 Not approved  
 Carried to next study period

Study Group:  Registered:   
Working party:  Consented between:  and   
Question:  Approved between:  and   
GSI:  Work item:   
Subject/title:   
Summary:   
Base text:   
Editor's name or company:

Total found: 96 Page Size:   

List view

  [Show details](#)

1 2 3 4 5

# Identifying objectives: Work Programme database

**Priority areas for SG15 RG-AFR for 2025-2028 study period**

T25 Question number	T25 Question title	Ongoing interests work items	New interests work items
2/15	Optical systems for fibre access networks	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Very High Speed PON (VHSP) G.Sup.VHSP (Mohamed, Algeria)</li> <li>- G.sup.fgP2MP (Fine Grain point to Multipoint) (Mohamed, Algeria)</li> <li>- G.sup.FTTGrid draft (Mohamed, Algeria)</li> <li>- G.9804.2 Amd.3 (Mohamed, Algeria)</li> <li>- G.9805 Amd.2 (Mohamed, Algeria)</li> </ul>	
3/15	Technologies for in-premises networking and		



## Contribution structure (ITU-T A.2)

- Document metadata:
  - Source, **title**, relevant Questions.
  - Contact information.
  - **Abstract.**
- Introduction.
- **Rationale.**
- Development.
- **Proposal (or conclusion).**
- Supplementary information, if needed (annexed or appended to the Contribution).


Find your audience.  
(abstract: max. 200 words)

Why do this?  
Why now?

Call to action  
(or define the problem)



# Proposed revisions to an existing work item

	INTERNATIONAL TELECOMMUNICATION UNION	<b>SG2-C128</b>
	<b>TELECOMMUNICATION STANDARDIZATION SECTOR</b>	<b>STUDY GROUP 2</b>
	STUDY PERIOD 2025-2028	<b>Original: English</b>
<b>Question(s):</b> 5/2		Virtual, 25-28 August 2025 Geneva, 1-5 September 2025
<b>CONTRIBUTION</b>		
<b>Source:</b>	China Telecommunications Corporation	
<b>Title:</b>	Revised baseline text for <u>M.rsmca</u> : Requirements for smart maintenance of cell antenna (for consent)	
<b>Contact:</b>	Zhiheng Gao China Telecom China	Tel: +8613316090139 E-mail: <a href="mailto:gaozh@chinatelecom.cn">gaozh@chinatelecom.cn</a>
<b>Contact:</b>	Ping Zhao China Telecom China	Tel: +86 20 38639086 E-mail: <a href="mailto:zhaop11@chinatelecom.cn">zhaop11@chinatelecom.cn</a>
<b>Contact:</b>	Qiusen Wang China Telecom China	Tel: +8618024084388 E-mail: <a href="mailto:wangqs1@chinatelecom.cn">wangqs1@chinatelecom.cn</a>
<b>Abstract:</b>	This contribution proposes to modify <u>M.rsmca</u> : "Requirements for smart maintenance of cell antenna" based on TD134/PLEN.	

## 8.2 Functional requirements for pre-processing layer

Data pre-processing refers to a series of processing work such as [extracting the relevant source data](#), necessary [data transformation](#) (cleaning, integration, conversion, dispersion and reduction of the original data) [and loading the transformed data into the target database](#), which has reached the minimum specifications and standards required by the knowledge acquisition research. Some functional requirements for the pre-processing layer that need ~~to be considered~~ for smart maintenance of cell include:

- [Data extraction](#): Data extraction requires retrieving relevant data from various heterogeneous sources such as databases, files, logs, or network interfaces. It ensures that the raw data needed for analysis is collected in a timely and accurate manner, and prepares it for subsequent [processing steps](#).
- Data integration: Data integration requires combining and uniformly storing data from multiple data sources, and establishing a data warehouse to achieve data integration.
- Data cleaning: Data cleansing requires removing noise data and irrelevant data in the data set, processing missing data and cleaning Dirty data, missing values, identifying and deleting outliers, etc.
- Data conversion: Data conversion requires the conversion of data through smooth aggregation, data generalization, normalization, and other methods.
- [Data reduction](#): The data protocol requires the reduction representation of the dataset to be obtained, which requires the maximum ~~compression~~ [simplification](#) of the data while maintaining the integrity of the original data, and the results are the same or almost the same as before the reduction.
- [Data loading](#): Data loading requires [importing the transformed and cleaned data into the target data warehouse or data repository](#). It ensures data consistency and supports [incremental or batch loading](#).



# Proposed new work item

	INTERNATIONAL TELECOMMUNICATION UNION	SG2-C6
	TELECOMMUNICATION STANDARDIZATION SECTOR	STUDY GROUP 2
	STUDY PERIOD 2025-2028	Original: English
Question(s):	1/2	Geneva, 5-14 February 2025
<b>CONTRIBUTION</b>		
Source:	National Communications Authority (NatCA), Sierra Leone	
Title:	Proposed new work item TR.NIN-SIM: "Technical Report on NIN-SIM Integration"	
Contact:	Smart I. B. Kokofele National Communications Authority (NatCA) Sierra Leone	Tel: +23278542448 E-mail: <a href="mailto:skokofele@natca.gov.sl">skokofele@natca.gov.sl</a>
Contact:	Shaka Sasha Essa National Communications Authority (NatCA) Sierra Leone	Tel: +23278242242 E-mail: <a href="mailto:sessa@natca.gov.sl">sessa@natca.gov.sl</a>
Contact:	Leonard Thornton National Communications Authority (NatCA) Sierra Leone	Tel: +23276600021 E-mail: <a href="mailto:lthornton@natca.gov.sl">lthornton@natca.gov.sl</a>
Contact:	Magdalene Williams National Communications Authority (NatCA) Sierra Leone	Tel: +23288000111 E-mail: <a href="mailto:mwilliams@natca.gov.sl">mwilliams@natca.gov.sl</a>
Abstract:	This document discusses the integration of National Identification Number (NIN) and Subscriber Identity Module (SIM) to ensure effective registration and management of SIM cards and subscribers. The initiative aims to enhance accuracy and security of subscriber information, reduce fraud, and improve regulatory compliance. The paper outlines definitions, current processes, a proposed framework, technical details, benefits, challenges, and recommendations for implementation	

Annex 1			
A.13 Justification for Proposed Draft New ITU-T TR.NIN-SIM "Technical Report on NIN-SIM Integration"			
Question:	Q1/2	Proposed new ITU-T: Technical Report	Geneva, 5-12 February 2025
Reference and title:	ITU-T TR.NIN-SIM "Technical Report on NIN-SIM Integration "		
Base text:	SGy-Cnnn or SGy-TDnn/[WPn]	Timing:	2025-02
Editor(s):	Smart I. B. Kokofele, NatCA Sierra Leone, <a href="mailto:skokofele@natca.gov.sl">skokofele@natca.gov.sl</a> , +23278542448 Shaka Sasha Essa, NatCA Sierra Leone, <a href="mailto:sessa@natca.gov.sl">sessa@natca.gov.sl</a> , +23278242242 Leonard Thornton, NatCA Sierra Leone, <a href="mailto:lthornton@natca.gov.sl">lthornton@natca.gov.sl</a> , +23276600021 Magdalene Williams, NatCA Sierra Leone, <a href="mailto:mwilliams@natca.gov.sl">mwilliams@natca.gov.sl</a> , +23288000111	Approval process:	Agreement
<b>Purpose and scope:</b> This Technical Report (TR) discusses the NIN-SIM Integration to ensure effective registration and management of SIM cards and subscribers, aiming to enhance the accuracy and security of subscriber information, reduce fraud, and improve regulatory compliance by defining key terms and concepts, providing an overview of the current state of SIM registration processes, proposing a framework for NIN-SIM integration, detailing API interfacing for data synchronization, and discussing the benefits, challenges, and recommendations for implementation.			

# Justification form: ITU-T A.1, Annex A

## Annex A

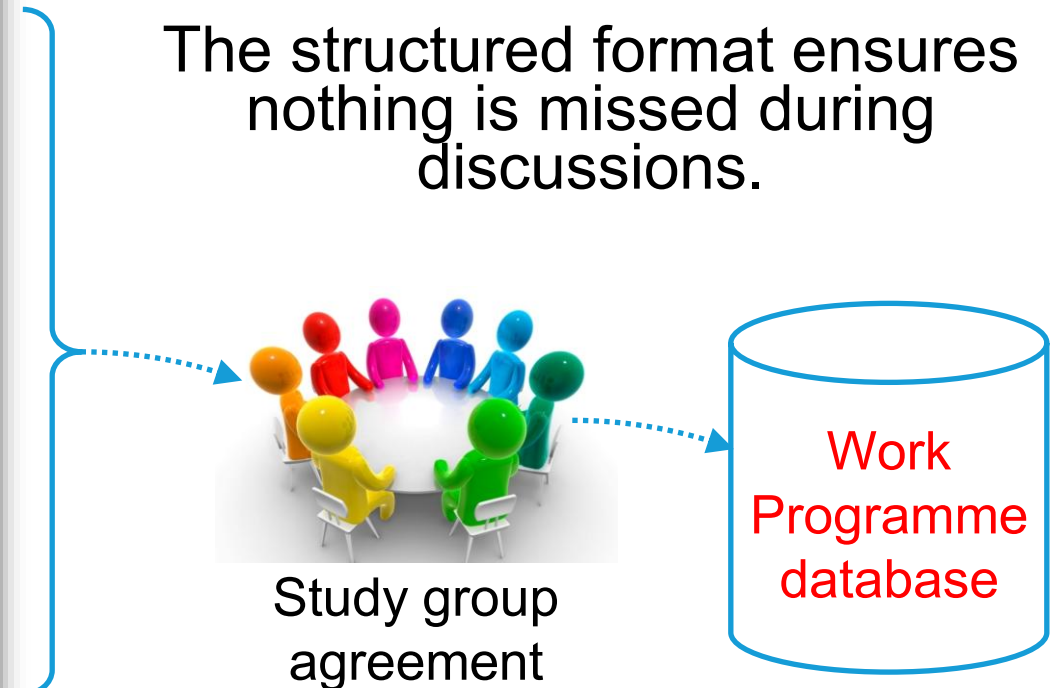
### Template to describe a proposed new Recommendation in the work programme

(This annex forms an integral part of this Recommendation.)

<b>Question:</b>	/	<b>Proposed new ITU-T Recommendation</b>	<Meeting date>
<b>Reference and title:</b>	Recommendation ITU-T <X.xxx> "Title"		
<b>Base text:</b>	<C nnn> or <TD nnnn>	<b>Timing:</b>	<Month-Year>
<b>Editor(s):</b>	<Name, membership, e-mail address>	<b>Approval process:</b>	<AAP or TAP>
<b>Scope</b> (defines the intent or object of the Recommendation and the aspects covered, thereby indicating the limits of its applicability):			
<b>Summary</b> (provides a brief overview of the purpose and contents of the Recommendation, thus permitting readers to judge its usefulness for their work):			
<b>Relations to ITU-T Recommendations or to other standards</b> (approved or under development):			
<b>Liaisons with other study groups or with other standards bodies:</b>			
<b>Supporting members that are committing to contributing actively to the work item:</b> <Member States, Sector Members, Associates, Academia>			

The **ITU-T A.1** justification form contains the required information to add a **Recommendation** to the Work Programme database.

The structured format ensures nothing is missed during discussions.





# Contributions: Key take aways

- Contributions are the **fuel for ITU-T's work**.
- Proposals can cover: new/revised work items, structure, working methods.
- Effective Contributions include **all required elements**, and follow established **good practices**.
- **Prioritize**: Title, Abstract, Rationale and Proposal (or Conclusion).
- New work item proposals: **A.1 or A.13** justification.
- Referencing or incorporation of existing standards: **A.5 or A.25** justification.
- Prepare and submit Contributions early (approval can take time).
- Seek help from colleagues or the study group leadership/secretariat.

# Recap

- Introduction to BSG
- ITU-T Regional groups
- Importance of Contributions



**Any questions?**