ITU-T Activities and Bridging the Standardization Gap (BSG) Programme

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BSG Programme, ITU

Introduction to ITU

- UN specialized agency for ICTs
- standards developing organization
- unique public/private partnership

Members:

- 193 Member States (Governments and regulatory bodies)
- Over 700 Private Sector (Sector Members and Associates)
- Over 90 Academia

ITU's structure

Standardization (ITU-T) produces interoperable technical ICT standards

Radiocommunication (ITU-R) coordinates global wireless communication

General Secretariat provides coordination for the whole organization

Development (ITU-D) provides assistance to the un-connected

Importance of Global Standards

- Drive competitiveness, for individual businesses and world economy
- Lower prices
- Reduce technical barriers
- Foster interoperability
- Manufacturers, network operators and consumers benefit

ITU-T structure

ITU-T structure: ITU-T Study Groups

- (2) Operational aspects
- (3) Economic and policy issues
- (5) Environment and climate change
- (9) Broadband cable and TV
- (11) Protocols and test specifications
- (12) Performance, QoS and QoE
- (13) Future networks (incl. cloud)
- (15) Transport and access
- (16) Multimedia
- (17) Security
- (20) IoT & Smart Cities

BSG @ ITU
Background and Update

ITU Constitution

Functions and Structure of the Telecommunication Standardization Sector

Article 17 of the ITU Constitution refers explicitly to the "concerns of developing countries"

Telecommunication Standardization Sector

Art. 17
Constitution

ARTICLE 17

Functions and Structure

104
PP-98

1 1) The functions of the Telecommunication Standardization Sector shall be, bearing in mind the particular concerns of the developing countries, to fulfil the purposes of the Union relating to telecommunication standardization, as stated in Article 1 of this Constitution, by studying technical, operating and tariff questions and adopting recommendations on them with a view to standardizing telecommunications on a worldwide basis.

ITU Strategic Plan

PP Resolution 71 and the Strategic objectives of the ITU-T

BSG is a key strategic objective for ITU-T

In the ITU Strategic Plan 2016-2019 (Annex to Res. 71),
the following is listed as one of the 5 overarching objectives of ITU-T :

- **Promote the active participation of the membership, in particular developing countries, in the definition and adoption of non-discriminatory international standards (ITU-T Recommendations) with a view to bridging the standardization gap**

Strategic Plan (PP Res. 71) T2

Plenipotentiary Resolution 123 on BSG

Since 2002 there is a PP-resolution on Bridging the Standardization Gap

- **PP-14 Resolution 123 (rev. Busan) resolves, *inter alia*, to instruct the Secretary General and the Directors of the 3 Bureaux to:**

- to provide developing countries with **assistance to enhance capacity building** in the standardization field
- to identify ways and means to **support the participation of representatives of developing countries** in the meetings of the three Sectors of ITU and the **dissemination of information** on standardization
- to further **collaborate with the relevant regional organizations** and support their work in this area…
- …

PP Res. 123

WTSA Resolution 44 (Rev. Hammamet, 2016)

WTSA and Bridging the Standardization Gap

Since 2004, we have a WTSA Resolution on BSG:

… that developing countries are still encountering multifarious difficulties in ensuring their efficient participation in the work of ITU-T, in particular engaging in and following up the work of the ITU-T study groups

Res. 44 includes (in its annex)
an Action Plan to implement Resolution 123 of PP-14

NB: In the ITU-D, there is a Recommendation ITU-D 22 on "Bridging the standardization gap in association with regional groups of the study groups"

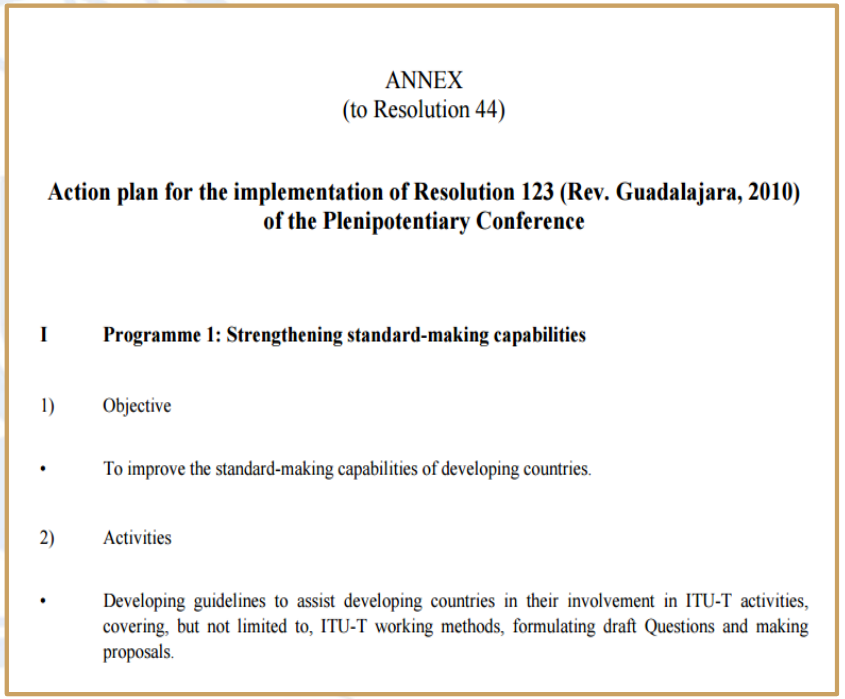
What Resolution 44 contains:

What Resolution 44 contains

- "Resolves", "Instructs" and an Action Plan

- Res. 44 contains a number of resolutions **("resolves")** and instructions **("instructs") that** are applicable to ITU-T Study Groups, TSAG and the TSB Director *(in some cases in collaboration with other sectors)*

- The Annex of Res. 44 includes an **Action plan** for the implementation of PP Res 123, containing 4 programmes



ANNEX
(to Resolution 44)

Action plan for the implementation of Resolution 123 (Rev. Guadalajara, 2010) of the Plenipotentiary Conference

I Programme 1: Strengthening standard-making capabilities

1) Objective

- To improve the standard-making capabilities of developing countries.

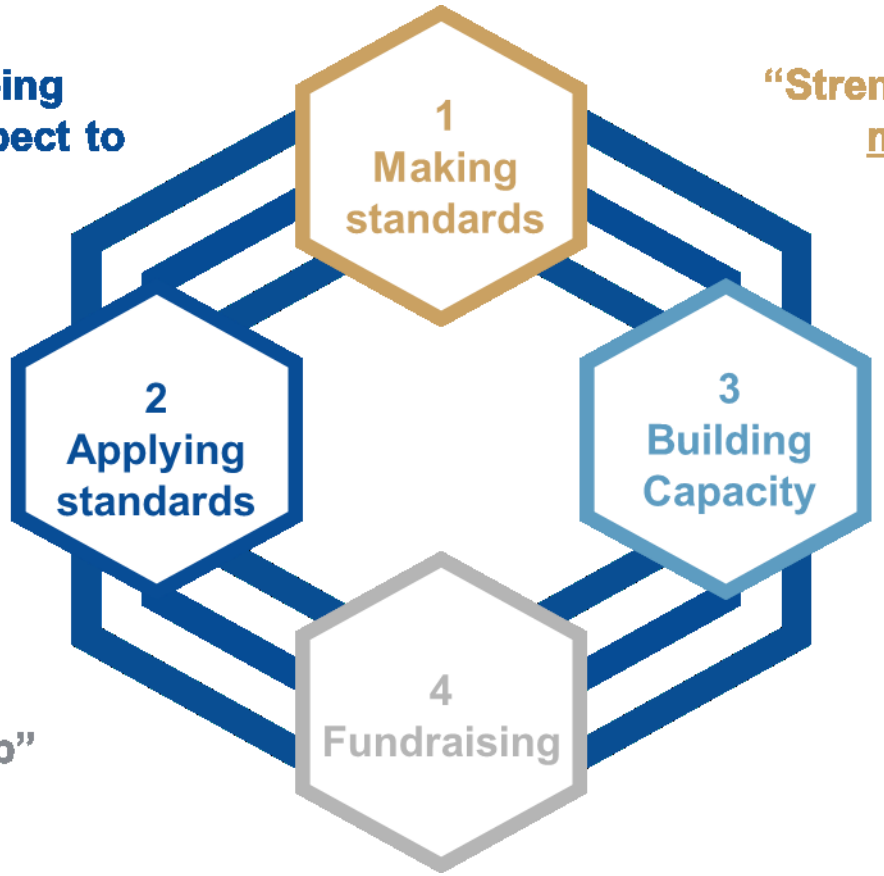
2) Activities

- Developing guidelines to assist developing countries in their involvement in ITU-T activities, covering, but not limited to, ITU-T working methods, formulating draft Questions and making proposals.

BSG Action Plan from Resolution 44

The 4 Programmes outlined the BSG Action Plan

"Assisting Developing Countries with respect to the application of standards"



"Strengthening standard-making capabilities"

"Fundraising for bridging the standardization gap"

"Human resources capacity building"

Implementing the Action Plan

The role of the BSG Implementation Group

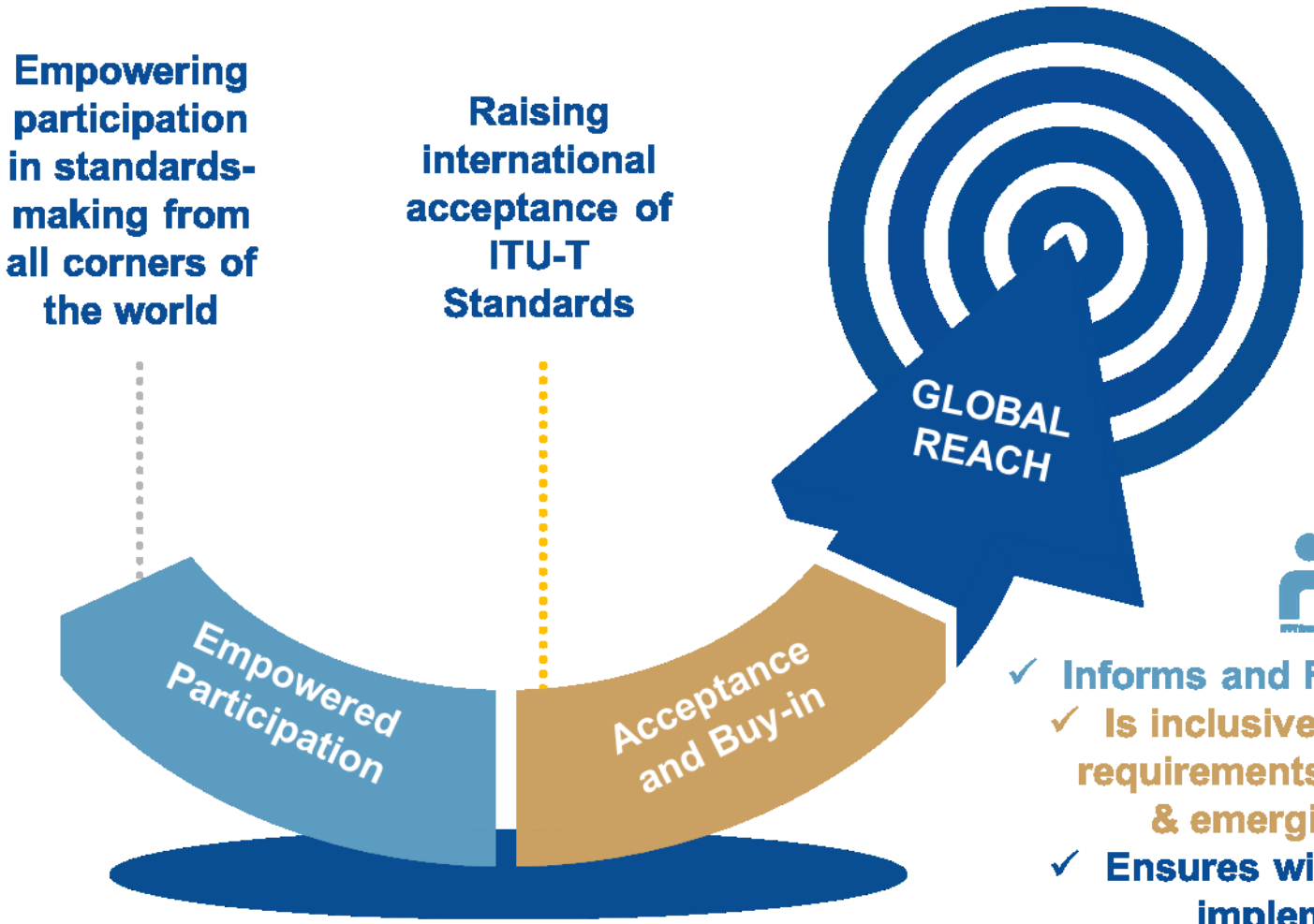
Through Resolution 44,

- WTSA-16 ***instructs*** the TSB Director,
  in collaboration with the Directors of BDT and BR:
  - *to continue **implementing the objectives of the action plan** annexed to this resolution;*
  - *to continue the activities of the **implementation group established within TSB** to organize, mobilize resources, coordinate efforts and monitor work related to this resolution and the associated action plan*

- WTSA-16 ***resolves*** :
  - *that the action plan annexed to this resolution, having the objective of bridging the standardization gap between developed and developing countries, should be continued and **be reviewed on an annual basis** to take into account the requirements of developing countries;*

BSG and the ITU-T Value Proposition

Bridging the Gap for Global Reach



- ✓ Informs and Fuels Innovation
- ✓ Is inclusive of needs and requirements of established & emerging markets
- ✓ Ensures wider standards implementation

BSG Towards 2020: 5 Strategic Areas

Awareness, Engagement, Partnering, Know-how and Community

Partnering
Resource Mobilization and Partnerships

Know How
Skills development for making and implementing standards

Awareness
Information Exchange and Awareness Raising

Community
Regional and National Empowerment

Engagement
Incentives for Participation and Engagement

Action Plan: Examples of Activities

Taken from Resolution 44

Know-how and Skills Development

- "Methods to increase developing countries' **ability to effectively contribute to ITU-T** and to influence standard-making"
- "**Capacity-building** events on… application of Recommendations… and compliance"
- "Training **courses**"
- "In-depth **tutorials**"
- "**Database**… on new technologies that are standardized"
- "Guidelines to assist developing countries"
- "Webinars"
- "E-learning"

Awareness and Information

- "**Implementation guidelines**" for standards
- "**Workshops and seminars**… to disseminate information and increase understanding of new Recommendations"
- "**Best practices**"
- "Exchanging information on new technologies and requirements of developing countries"
- "**Studies** on role of innovation management and innovation stimulation programmes on BSG"

Community Empowerment

- "Support…the coordinated creation of **regional groups** of ITU-T Study Groups" and "Ensure [their] smooth functioning"
- "Strengthen cooperation and coordination with the relevant **regional organizations**"
- "Technical assistance to encourage the establishment of **standardization programmes** in academia and research/development organizations"

Incentives for Engagement

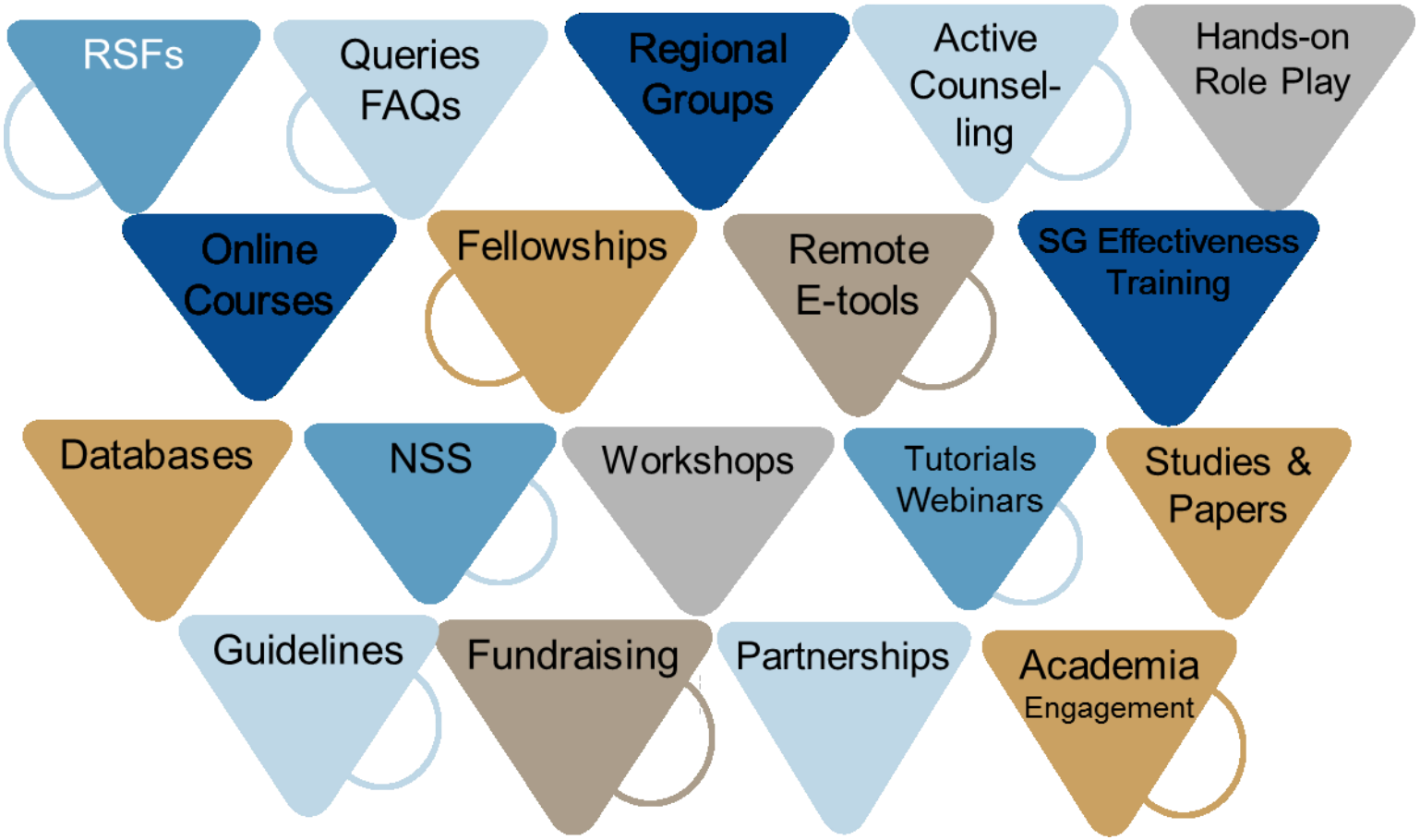
- "Providing, through TSB, **fellowships** to eligible countries to attend relevant ITU-T meetings".
- "**Improving** procedures and **electronic tools** for remote participation"
- "**Events, seminars and workshops** at regional …levels"
- "Increase the ITU-T budgetary provisions for **fellowships, interpretation and translation** of documents

Partnering and Resource Mobilization

- "**Fundraising** for BSG"
- "Voluntary contributions"
- "Advice and assistance on how to better utilize and adopt ITU-T Recs"
- "Assist developing countries with their studies, particularly in respect of their priority questions, and toward developing and implementing ITU-T Recs.
- Methods to enhance developing countries' knowledge and capacity to **include their own specificities** and necessities in the global standard-making process"

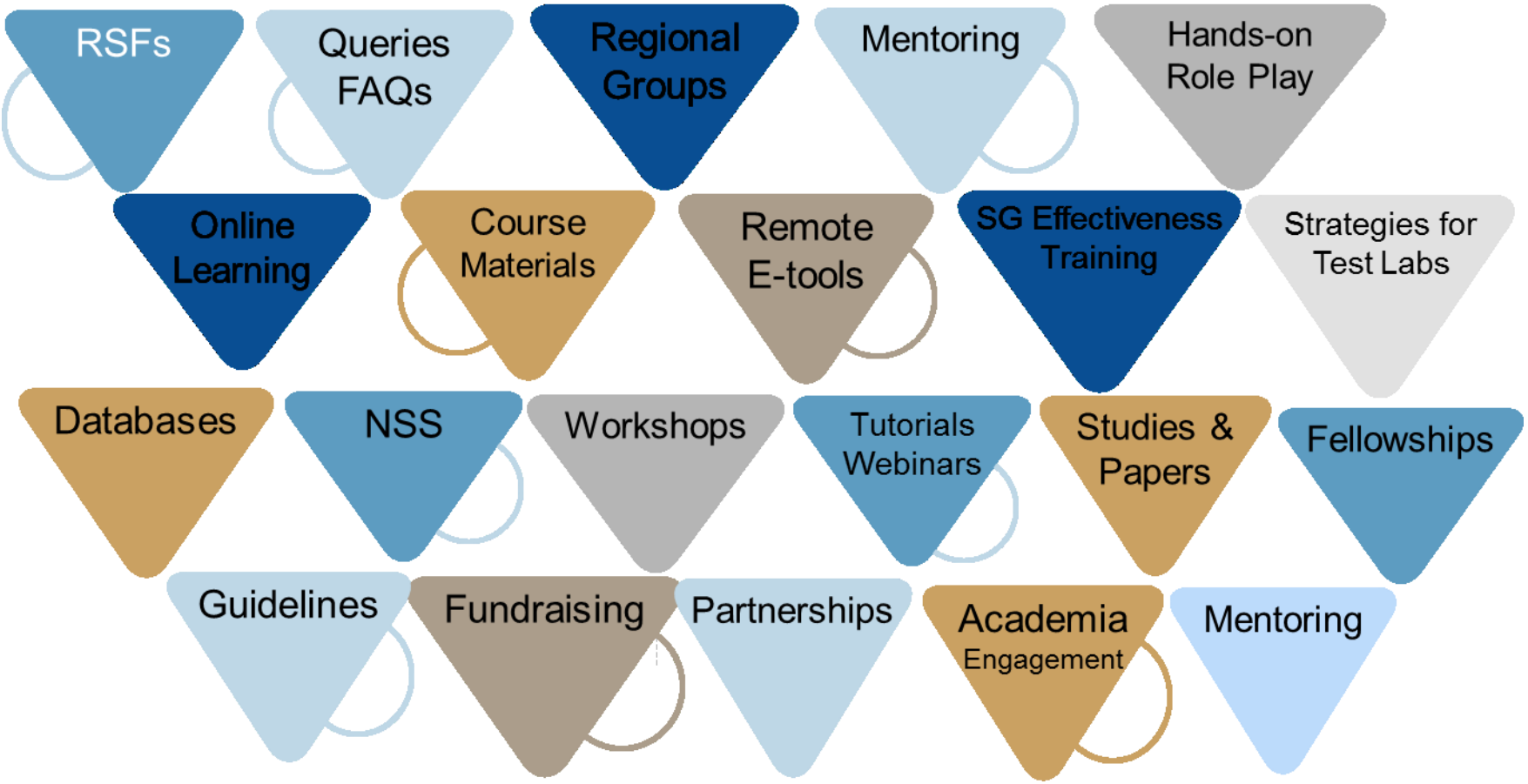
Key BSG @ ITU Activities 2013-2016

What the BSG Programme covers



Key BSG @ ITU Activities 2017-2020

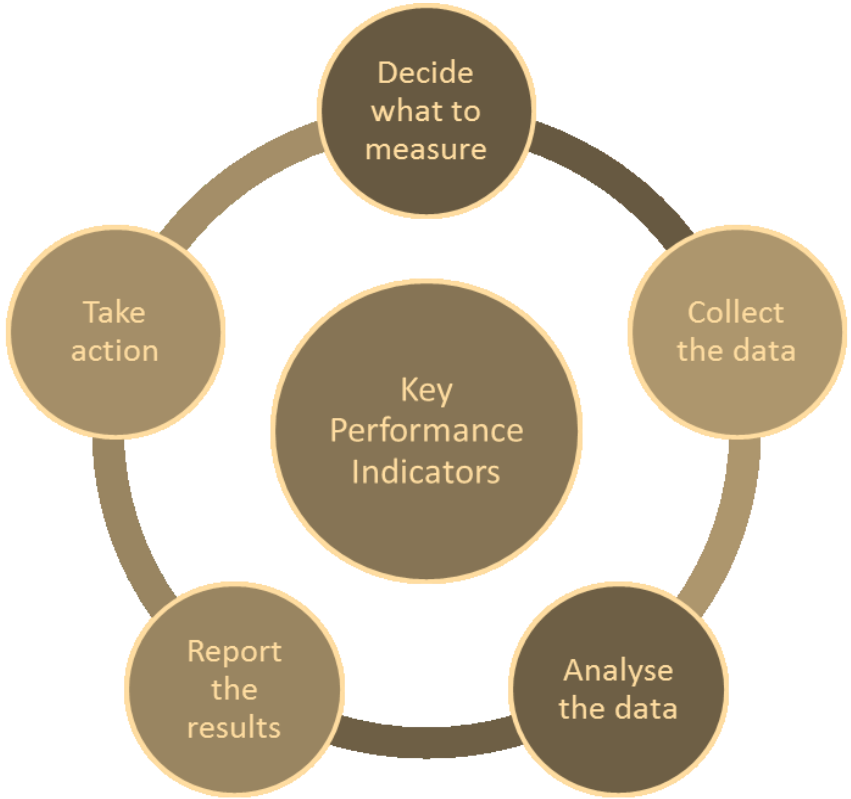
What the BSG Programme covers



BSG@ITU:
Measurement and KPIs

BSG: Measuring the impact

Key Performance indicators



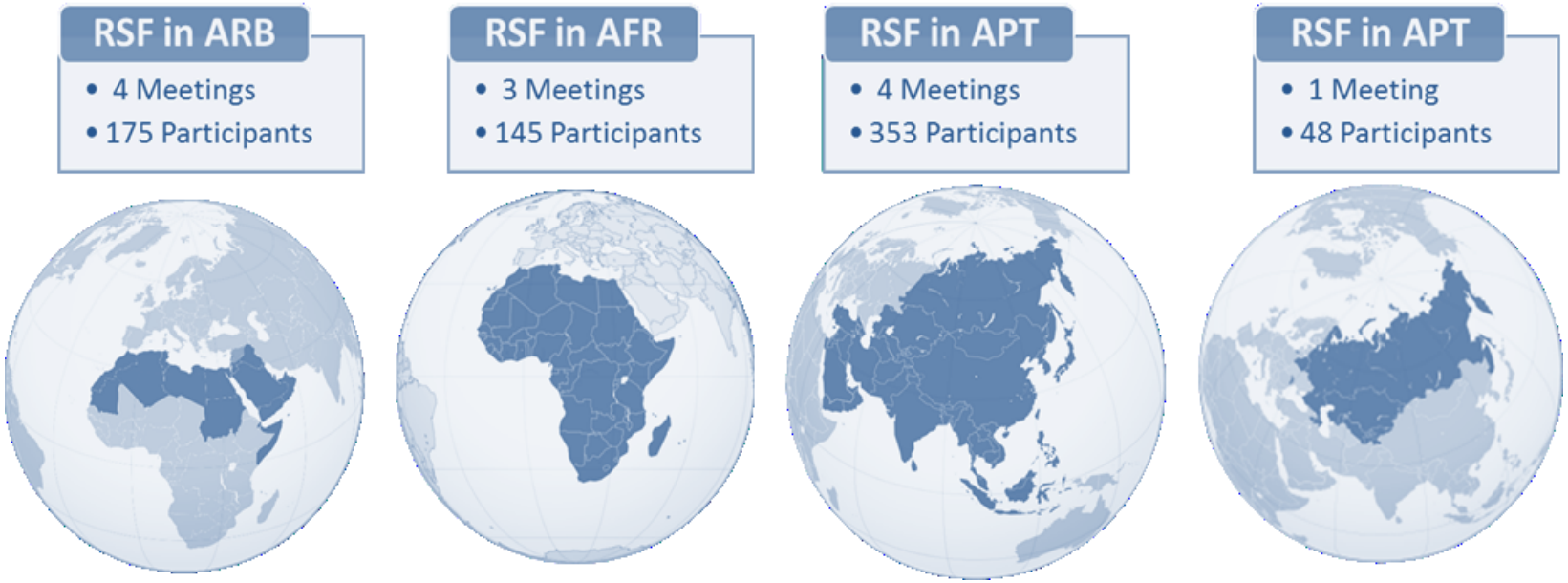
	Key performance indicators (KPIs)	KPI Value	
1	Number of participants from developing countries in ITU-T Study Groups *(Total number + range across all study groups in 2013 and 2016 - minimum % increase to maximum % increase)*	Data not yet available *(Automated data extraction tools under development)*	
2	Number of contributions received from developing countries to Study Groups *(Total number + range across all study groups in 2013 and 2016 - minimum % increase to maximum % increase)*	Data not yet available *(Automated data extraction tools under development)*	
3	Number of RSFs, workshops and tutorials held in developing countries	55	
4	Number of participants in RSFs + workshops and tutorials held in developing countries over the four-year period between 2013 and 2016	821 in RSFs + 3381 in Workshops	
5	Number of hands-on SG trainings held for Study Group Meetings	8	
6	Number of participants attending hands-on SG trainings	177 (from 75 organizations and 35 countries)	
7	Number of detailed hands-on training feedback forms received and rate of satisfaction *(Net Promoter Score)*	95%	
8	Number of delegates certified in the A.1 e-learning course	175	
9	Number of Study Group, RevCom, TSAG Chairs and Vice-Chairs from developing countries *(difference between current and last study period)*	SP 2009-2012	SP 2013-2016
		3 Chairmen	5 Chairmen
		45 Vice Chairmen	68 Vice Chairmen
10	Number of SG Regional Group meetings *(difference between current and last study period)*	SP 2009-2012	SP 2013-2016
		15 meetings	45 meetings

Information and Awareness: RSFs

Forums Around the World for Bridging the Standardization Gap

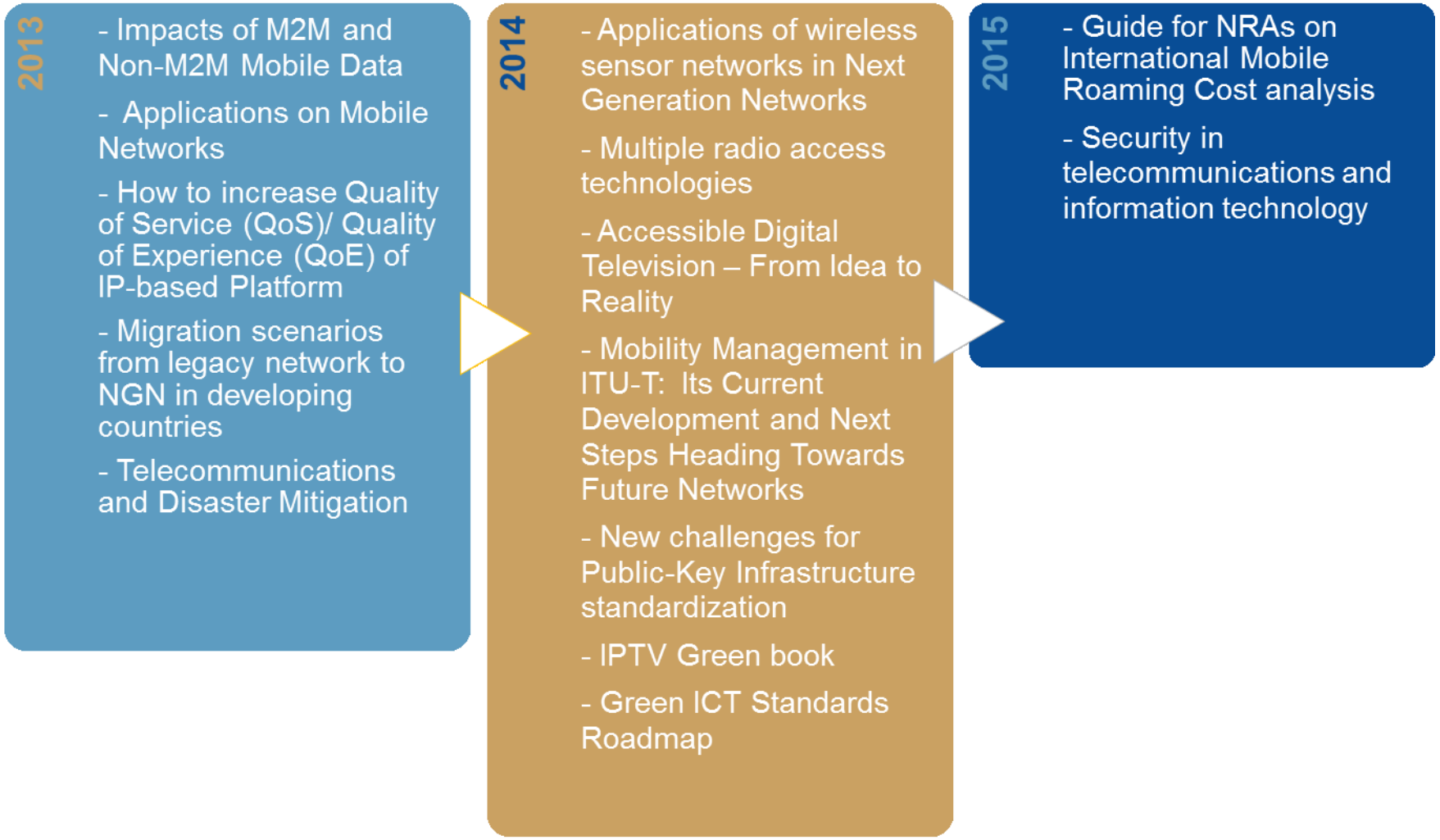
ITU-T Regional Standardization Forums for BSG

Meetings and Participants by Region (2013-2016)



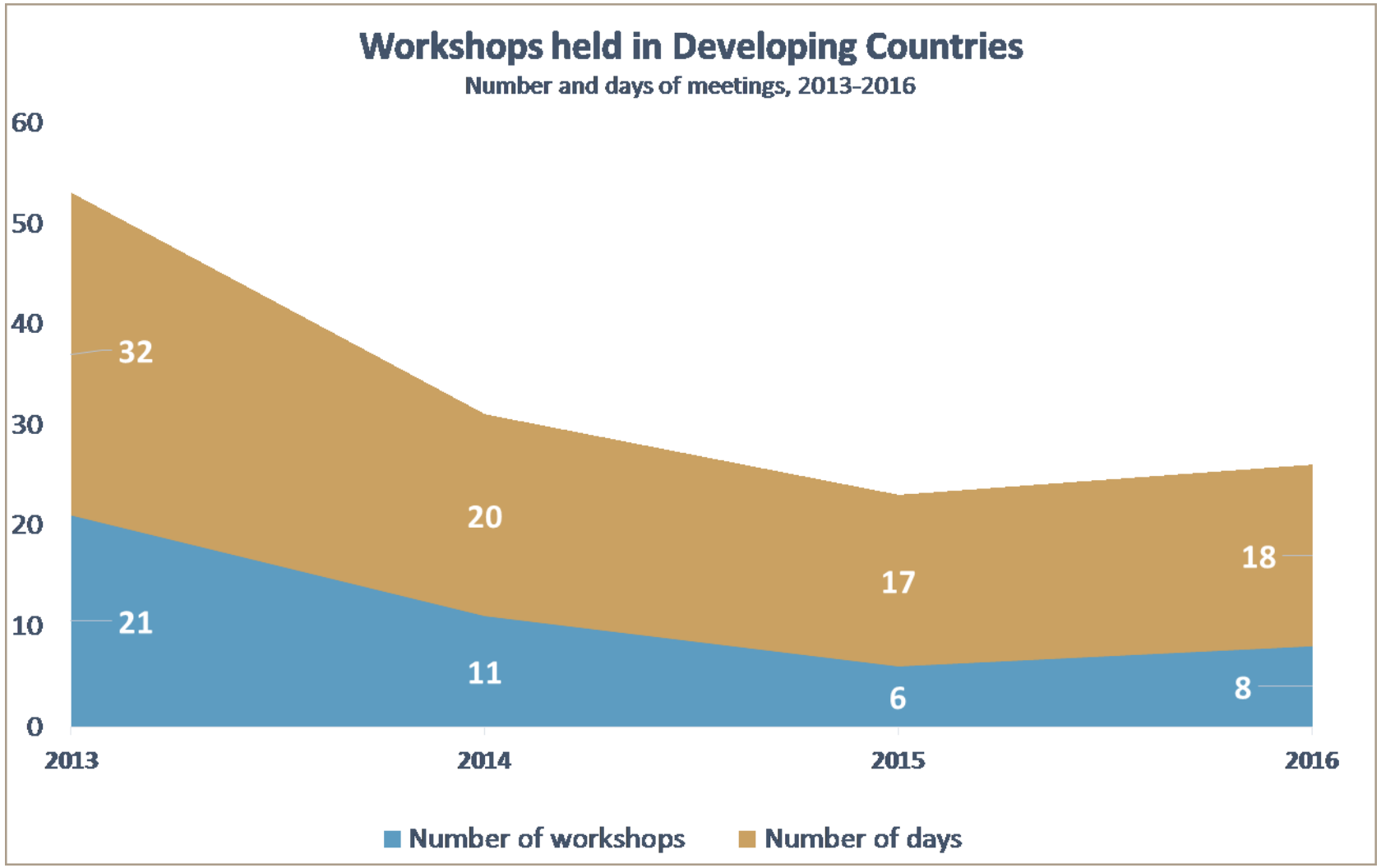
Information: Tech Papers & Other Studies

Disseminating knowledge and information: Study Period 2013-2016



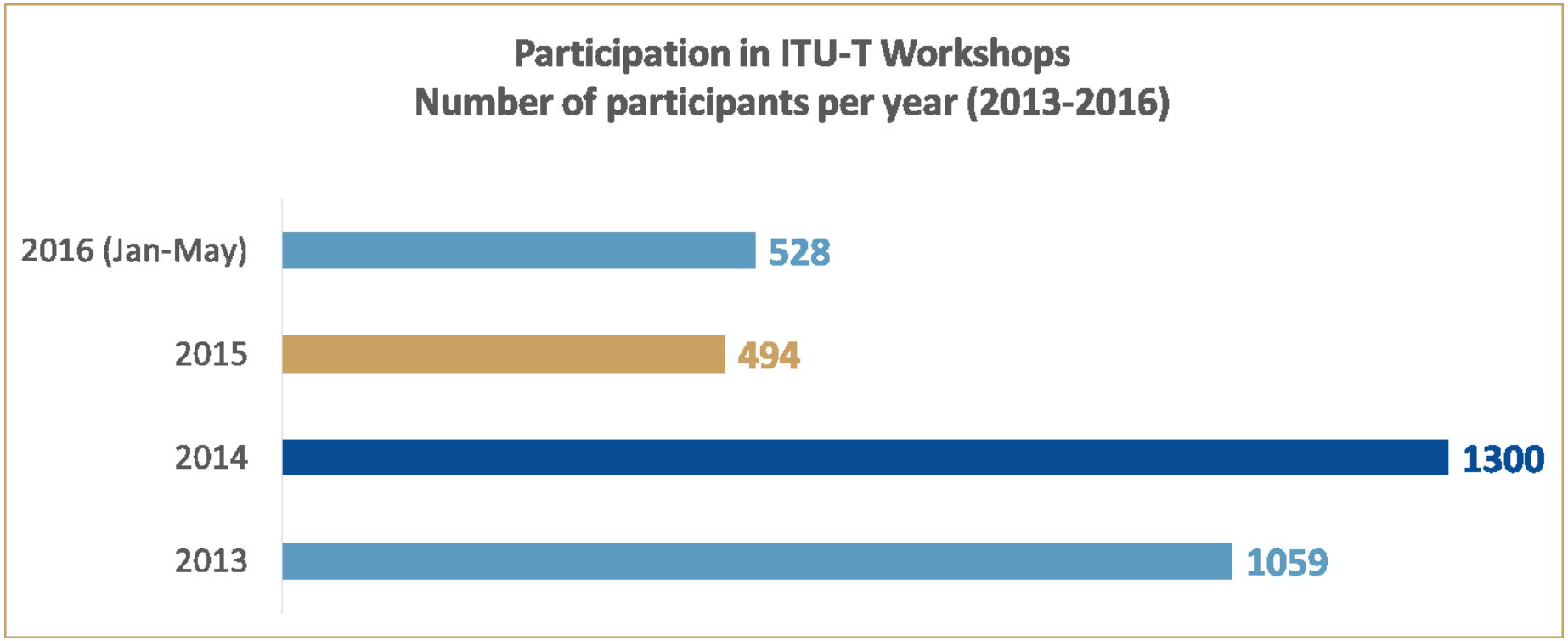
Awareness & Engagement: Workshops

Workshops held in Developing Countries



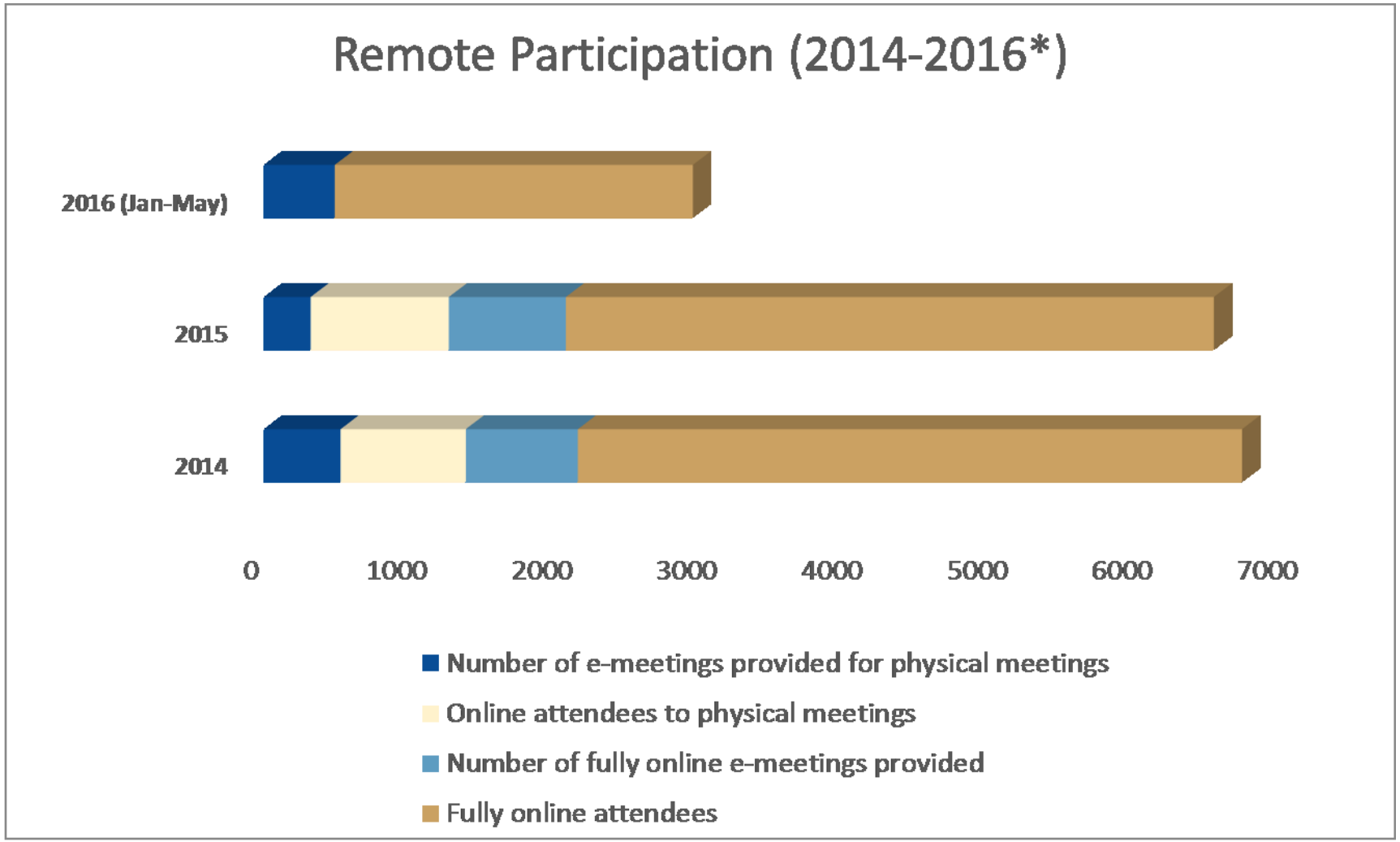
Awareness & Engagement: Workshops

Participation in Workshops



Engagement: Remote Participation

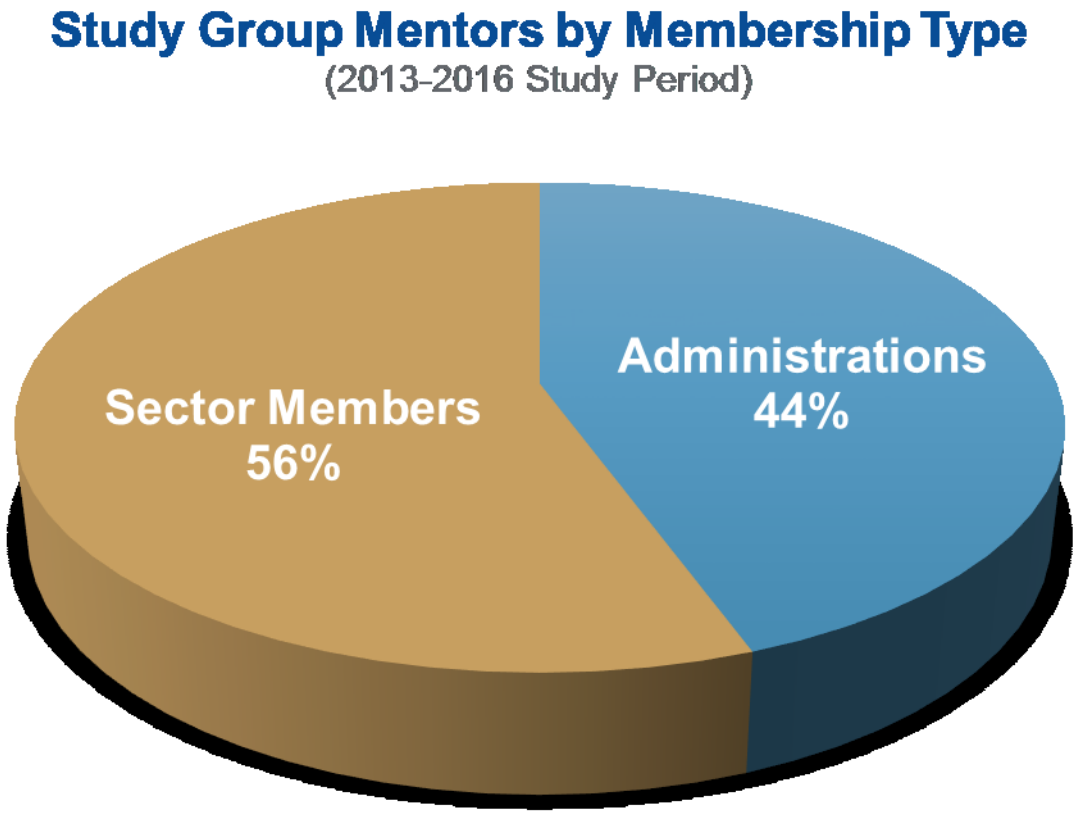
Encouraging participation from those that cannot physically attend meetings



*Note: Data available only from 2014 onwards

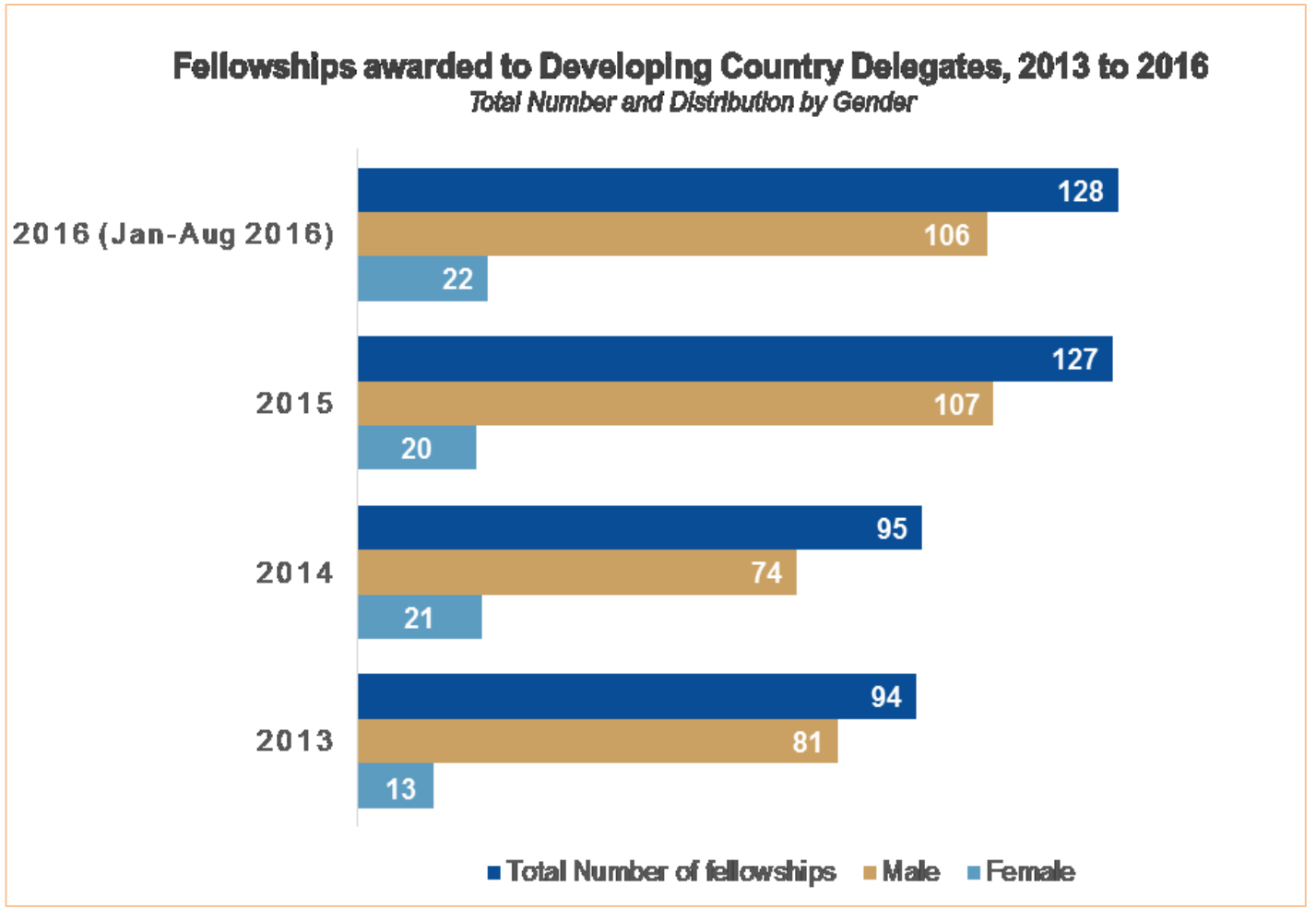
Engagement: Study Group Mentors

Over **70% of Study Groups** have appointed Mentors in this Study Period



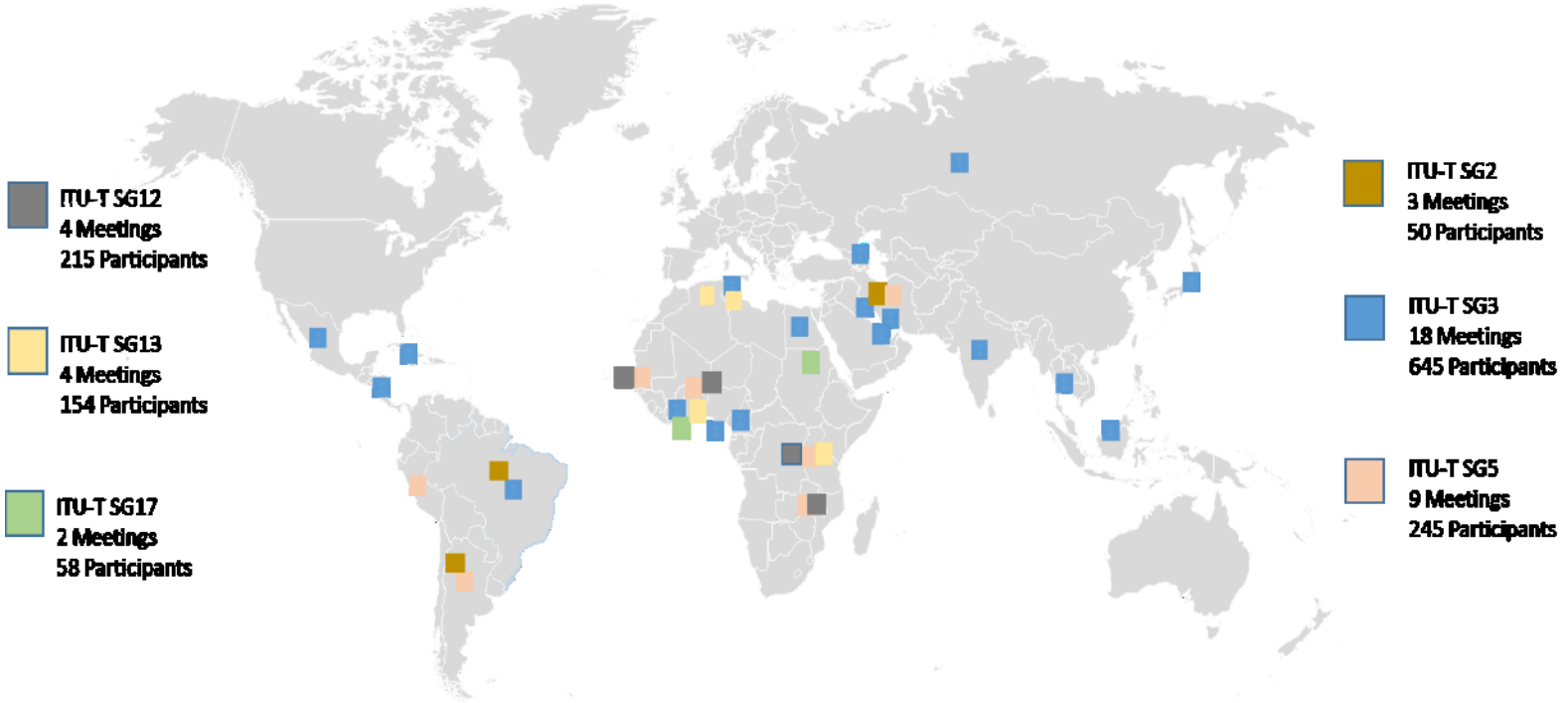
Engagement: Fellowships

Fellowships awarded to developing countries



Community: Regional Empowerment

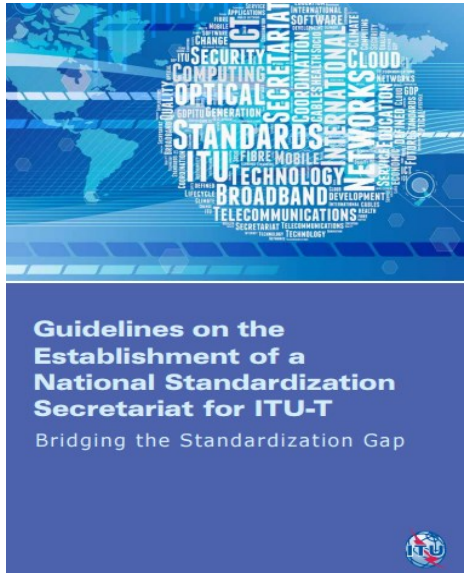
Participation in Regional Groups (2013-2016)



National Standardization secretariat

Guidelines and Consultancy projects (2013-2016)

The *"Guidelines on the establishment of a National Standardization Secretariat (NSS) for ITU-T"* was developed in 2013 and published in 2014. It takes into account the different capability levels for standardization across the developing countries, showing how it is possible to establish an NSS at a basic level with very little new cost or resource requirements.



TSB conducted a consultancy exercise for Zambia ICT Authority from November 2015 to March 2016 to undertake an audit of the current set up for ICT standardization activities and its national standardization secretariat and make recommendations on processes that could be enhanced in order to participate more effectively in ITU-t activities.

National Standardization secretariat

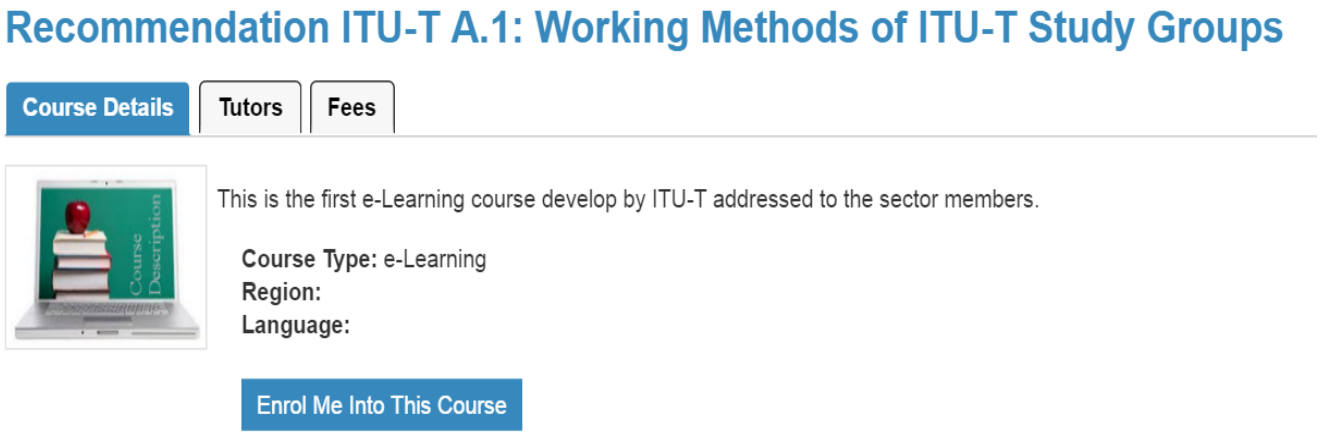
Guidelines and Consultancy projects (2013-2016)

TSB developed an e-learning course on the ITU-T Recommendation A.1, Working methods of ITU-T Study Groups in 2014.

The course comprises six modules:

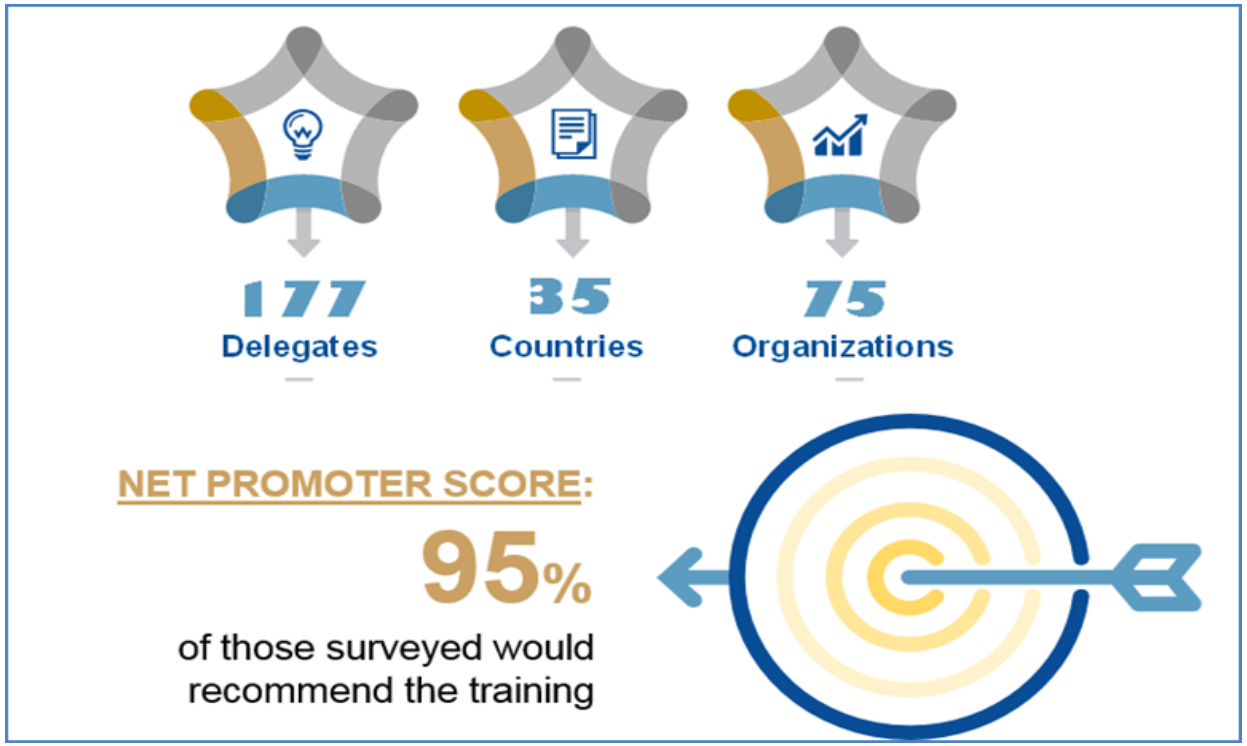
- Standardization in ITU-T
- Managing the study groups
- Coordination
- Inputs to the study groups
- Outputs of the study groups
- Further infrastructure supporting the study group process

Some 353 persons have attempted the course and 175 persons have obtained the certificate.



Know-How: Hands-on BSG & Role Play

Sessions were held between January and August 2016 (8 months) at ITU Headquarters as well as tailored sessions in Tunisia and India



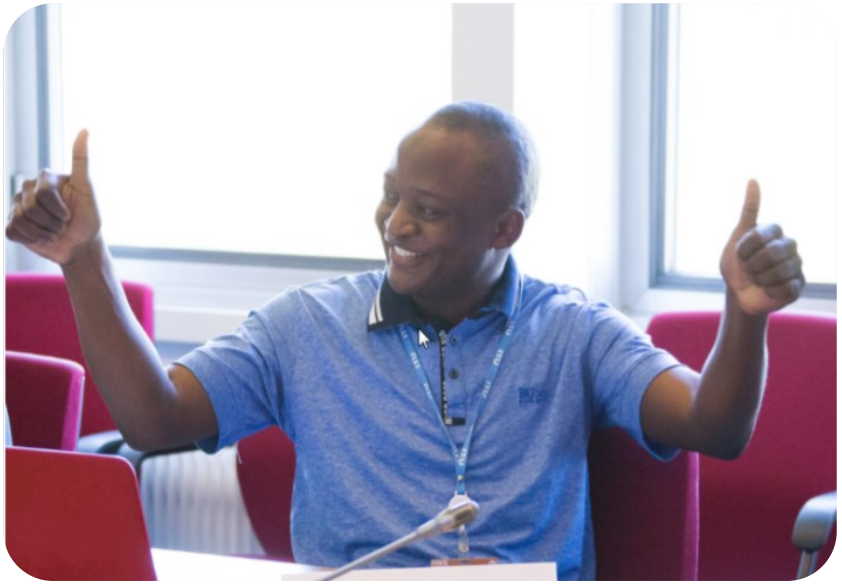
Know-how: Feedback on BSG Sessions

Feedback received from delegates attending the Study Group BSG sessions in Geneva

*"**Until now**, I have participated as **audience**. With this training, I am in a better standing than when I walked in here this morning and I plan to **actively participate** in future meetings"*

*"This training helped me understand my rights and **develop a strategy** for my contribution's success" .*

*"Now I will communicate my ideas at an international level through contributions to SG meetings, thus being able to **better position my country** in order to reach our objectives".*

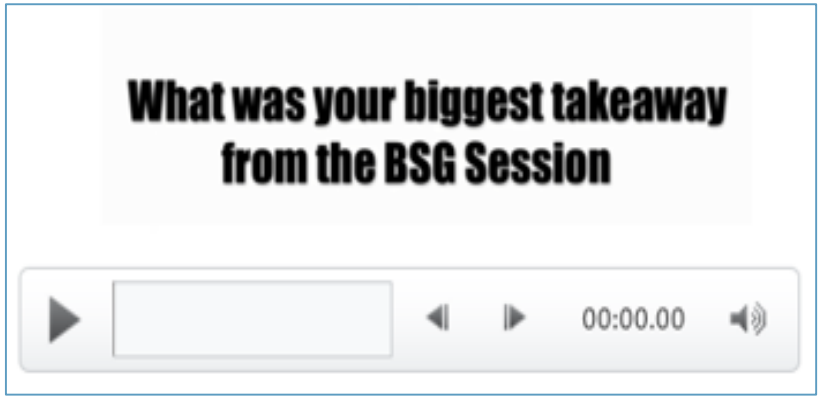


*"This is my second BSG session in 6 months. The first time I attended it was an **eye opener**!"*

*"I was confused and lost and I was not sure what I was supposed to do… **Now I know why I am here".***

A few words from our BSG Alumni

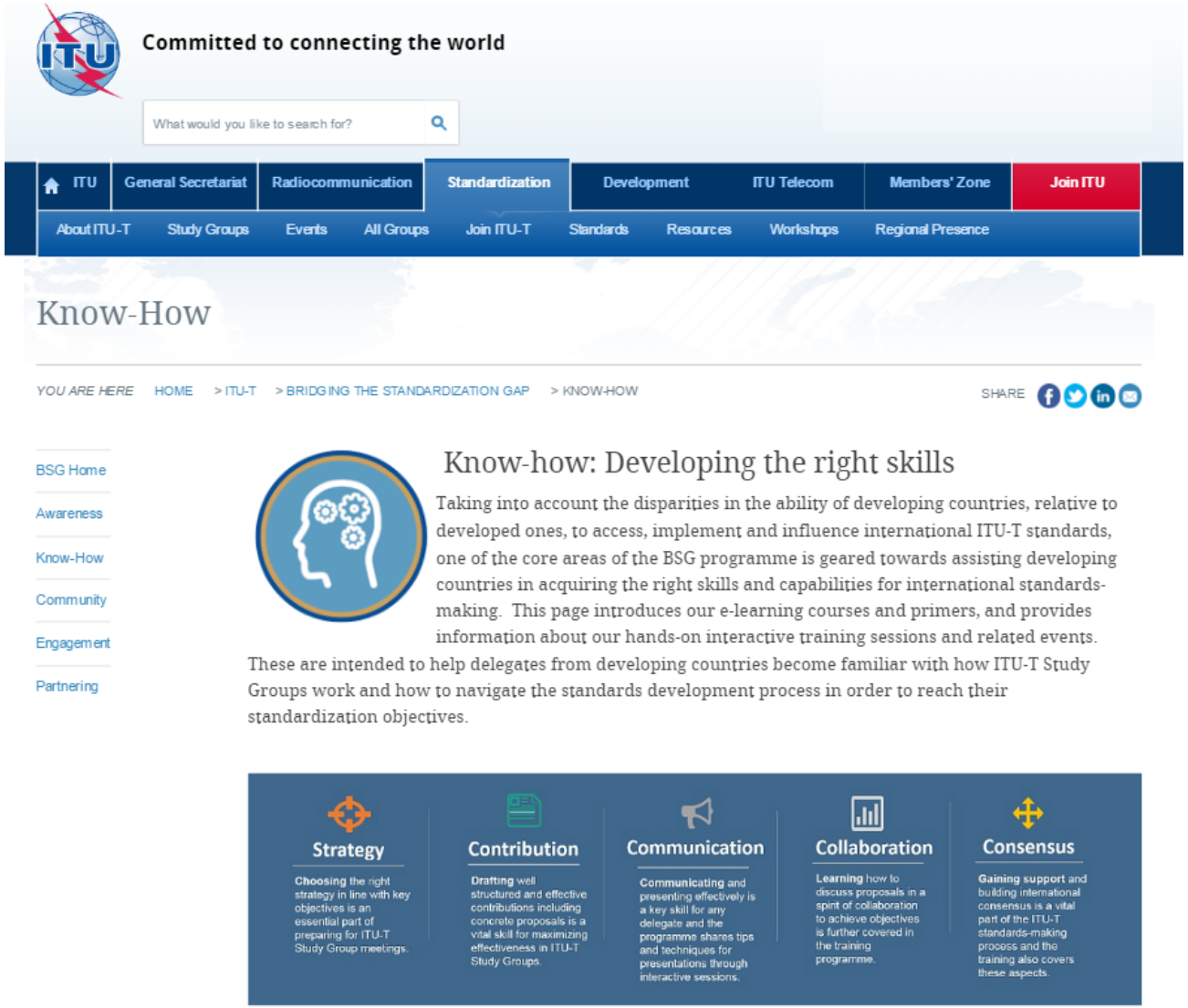
Hello Geneva: Why do standards matter?



BSG Website

BSG on the web

www.itu.int/go/bridging



Bridging the Standardization Gap

Simply put ….

Simply put, greater awareness and know-how of the standards-making process among all participating members will :

- Foster a more intelligent dialogue among peers and help move the standardization work forward at a suitable pace
- Enhance the overall quality of standards worldwide and their acceptance across regions
- Create a wealth of exchange and networking opportunities between informed decision-makers, policy-makers, partners and customers around the world
- Extend the global reach and implementation of standards
- Help businesses better inform product design and grow across both established and untapped markets

Thank you!

Dr Amine Mcharek
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ITU