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| ITU Logo | INTERNATIONAL TELECOMMUNICATION UNION**TELECOMMUNICATIONSTANDARDIZATION SECTOR**STUDY PERIOD 2017-2020 | FG-AI4H-N-052 |
| **ITU-T Focus Group on AI for Health** |
| **Original: English** |
| **WG(s):** | Plenary | Online, 15-17 February 2022 |
| **LS** |
| **Source:** | Focus Group on AI for Health (FG-AI4H) |
| **Title:** | LS on discussion of potential for future collaboration [to IEC TC62] |
| **Purpose:** | Discussion |
| **LIAISON STATEMENT** |
| **For action to:** | IEC TC62 |
| **For comment to:** | - |
| **For information to:** | - |
| **Approval:** | FG-AI4H Management (By correspondence, 4 January 2022) |
| **Deadline:** | 29 Dec 2021 |
| **Contact:** | Thomas Wiegand,Fraunhofer HHI,Germany | E-mail: thomas.wiegand@hhi.fraunhofer.de |

This document is a copy of the LS sent by the FG management to IEC TC62 in January 2022.

Ref: <https://www.itu.int/net/itu-t/ls/ls.aspx?isn=28198>

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| ITU Logo | INTERNATIONAL TELECOMMUNICATION UNION**TELECOMMUNICATIONSTANDARDIZATION SECTOR**STUDY PERIOD 2017-2020 | FG-AI4H-LS-007 |
| **ITU-T Focus Group on AI for Health** |
| **Original: English** |
| **WG(s):** | Plenary | 4 January 2022 |
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| **Abstract:** | ITU/WHO Focus Group on AI for Health (FG-AI4H) is working towards international standards for trustworthy health AI technologies, with the important goal to develop an open, scalable benchmarking framework for the standardized quality assessment of these AI tools. From our understanding, there are several overlapping subjects of common interest with [IEC TC62](https://www.iec.ch/dyn/www/f?p=103:7:0::::FSP_ORG_ID,FSP_LANG_ID:1245,25) "*Electrical equipment in medical practice*". Hence, this Liaison Statement aims to initiate discussions between IEC TC62 and ITU/WHO FG-AI4H on a potential collaboration in the field of Artificial Intelligence for Health. |

The [FG-AI4H](https://www.itu.int/go/fgai4h/) was established by ITU-T SG16 in July 2018 and has been created in collaboration with WHO, as an outcome of the 2018 AI for Good summit in which both ITU and WHO joined. It has brought together a team of dedicated people from the fields of medicine, engineering, computer science including AI, regulation, ethics, and many other areas. These hundreds of volunteers from academia, business, medical practice, research, and regulatory agencies share the common goal to create an eco-system for producing international standards for trustworthy health AI technologies. The goal of FG-AI4H is to develop an open, scalable benchmarking framework for the standardized quality assessment of AI4H tools.

A key gap identified early in the process is the lack of an independent platform to evaluate AI models. In 2020, the FG-AI4H launched the Open Code Initiative ([OCI](https://github.com/fg-ai4h)) that is evolving into a complete assessment platform run by ITU/WHO in the cloud where the entire data and model ecosystem is integrated. In the platform prototype, which is currently being tested in a pilot phase, data can be uploaded and annotated, models can be tested, and evaluation metrics generated. This is the first not-for-profit interagency AI-model assessment platform prototype, being developed in collaboration with country-level regulatory agencies that have an interest in independent model assessments before granting approval. FG-AI4H aims at standardizing all elements of OCI.

A large number of FG-AI4H members are developers and scientists working on particular use-cases, such as infectious diseases (e.g., Malaria, Tuberculosis), symptom detection, radiology, histopathology, and many more. FG-AI4H has initiated a system for auditing use-case specific AI-models via the OCI described above. These audits will serve as blueprints for AI model approval and showcase the importance of a multidisciplinary approach to assess AI models. The audit teams thus consist of experts across multiple disciplines and refer to the [deliverables](https://itu.int/en/ITU-T/focusgroups/ai4h/Documents/listdeliverables.pdf) created by domain experts on AI/ML, regulation, ethics, technical tests, clinical evaluation, and data.

The FG-AI4H has become an established member in the AI for health academic and business community, beyond developing standards documentation along the AI lifecycle, the inauguration of the first independent AI-model assessment platform prototype (by FG-AI4H's OCI), and a holistic system for AI model evaluation (AI audits). The large number of voluntary contributors (500+ subscribers to the mailing lists) as well as (3000+) views of webinars, which are hosted by the FG-AI4H on [ITU's AI for Good platform](https://aiforgood.itu.int/search-result-programme/?keyword=&category=346&event-venue=&enddate=&startdate=Select+year), evidence this.

From our current understanding and via interaction with experts from IEC TC62, we believe that there are several topics of joint interest between our two groups. In particular, the work described in the OCI context with aim to standardize all steps of the AI for health technology development process including data acquisition, annotation, training, testing and clinical evaluation seem to be of particular interest. Moreover, we would also like to inform you that we have worked in close collaboration with WHO on regulatory principles and ethical considerations for AI for health.

Hence, we would like to invite you to hold management level discussions about potential collaboration. We are eager to understand your work in this field, to discuss any particular topic of common interest, and to explore methods of collaboration based on the principles in Recommendation ITU-T A.23 [1], as ITU has done in the past with ISO and JTC1 groups. We are looking forward to your reply.

References

[1] Recommendation ITU-T A.23 Annex A | ISO/ IEC Standing Document 3, *Collaboration with the International Organization for Standardization (ISO) and the International Electrotechnical Commission (IEC) on information technology: Guide for ITU-T and ISO/IEC JTC 1 cooperation*. <https://www.itu.int/rec/T-REC-A.23>

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