Terms of Reference of ITU-T Focus Group on "Bridging the Gap: from Innovation to Standards"

The Focus Group is established in accordance with Recommendation ITU-T A.7.

1. Rationale and Scope

ICTs have a key role in enabling developing countries to meet the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) and bridging the digital divide. Developments in ICTs fuelled by innovations and standards are important factors that can facilitate socio-economic growth. ICT innovations and related standards can bridge the digital divide and positively impact the lives of people.

This focus group provides an initial platform for recognition and identification of innovations emerging in developing countries that may benefit from standardisation and supporting its standardisation by the T-sector.

The main objective is to support the activities of ITU-T Study groups to further support innovation and close the digital divide (Res.71 of PP-10).

This Focus Group does not intend to duplicate other efforts but will benefit from existing work and expertise. This Focus Group will intensively cooperate with functions within ITU-T, like Tech Watch, and outside, especially with ITU-D, esp. its innovation activities and the focal point for ITU-D SG 2 Q.9-3. This Focus Group will liaise, as appropriate, through the TSB Director with TDAG.

2. Plan of Actions

The Focus Group addresses the following issues:

  ➢ In cooperation with ITU-D, document case studies of successful examples of ICT innovations, including those that have emerged in developing countries, and identify relevant standardization gaps. Particular focus should be on the socioeconomic impact of ICT innovation that have emerged in developing countries;
  ➢ Analyze the innovations that may be standardized and identify best practices which can facilitate the implementation of such innovations in other parts of the world;
  ➢ Identify a few case studies which, in particular, developing countries can adopt to enhance their ICT innovation and standardization capabilities in order to improve their socio-economic development;
  ➢ Identify the issues developing countries may be facing to bring their ICT innovation to ITU-T.
  ➢ Suggest future ITU-T study items and related actions;
  ➢ Examine how other Standards Development Organizations, forums and consortia address ICT innovation, and integrate them into their standardization activities;
  ➢ Promote its activity at World Telecommunication Standardization Assembly (WTSA) meeting in November 2012.

3. Parent Group

The parent group is TSAG.

4. Expected Deliverables

The Focus Group is expected to provide the following deliverables:

➢ Report on successful cases of ICT Innovations in different economic sectors from various geographical areas which may benefit from standardization in ITU-T (Innovations Report)
➢ Proposals on new standardization activities for ITU-T, as appropriate
➢ Support TSB in organising a side event at the WTSA-12 on "Bridging the Gap: from Innovations to Standards" showcasing the findings of the focus group and a report on the proposed actions recommended during the side event.

5. Time Schedule for completion

The duration of the Focus Group is from January 2012 to TSAG 2013. The Focus Group will work predominantly electronically. Face-to-face meetings will be co-ordinated with other meetings to maximize participation. Remote participation will be offered as much as possible.

A preliminary set of milestones include:

➢ Kick-off meeting: February 2012
➢ WTSA-12 side event "Bridging the Gap: from Innovations to Standards": November 2012
➢ Innovations Report complete: January 2013
➢ Proposals on new areas of standardization activities for ITU-T complete: January 2013

These milestones are subject to change due to modifications of the work plan caused by the Focus Group membership and contributions.

6. Relationships

Collaboration with relevant SDOs, government/industry forums, companies, academic institutions, research institutes and subject matter experts is critical to the success of this focus group. The Focus Group will determine other relevant entities to collaborate with, and the type of collaboration that should take place. Close collaboration with ITU-D and ITU-R will also be required.

7. Further issues

Leadership

According to A.7, para 2.3

Participation

According to A.7, para 3

Financing of focus group

According to A.7, para 4, funding will also be discussed with ITU-D

Financing of meetings

According to A.7, para 4.1

Administrative support

According to A.7, para 5

Meeting logistics

According to A.7, para 6

Working language

According to A.7, para 7

Technical contributions

According to A.7, para 8

Intellectual property rights

According to A.7, para 9

Deliverables

According to A.7, para 10

Approval of deliverables

According to A.7, para 10.1

Printing and distribution of deliverables

According to A.7, para 10.2

Progress reports

According to A.7, para 11

Meeting announcements

According to A.7, para 12

Working guidelines

According to A.7, para 13