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| **RESOLUTION GSC-17/27: (Plenary) ICT Accessibility (Reaffirmed)** |

The 17th Global Standards Collaboration meeting (Jeju,13-16, May, 2013)

**Recognizing:**

a) the United Nations Convention on the rights of persons with disabilities, which entered into force in May 2008;

b) RESOLUTION GSC-13/26 (UWG) (Boston, 2008) on user needs, considerations and involvement, which emphasized the need for the inclusion of accessibility as a key issue of particular relevance to end users, and the encouragement to PSOs to implement a framework for end user involvement in the standards setting process;

c) publications and ongoing work of the Special Working Group on Accessibility of the Joint Technical Committee on Information Technology (JTC 1) of ISO and IEC, as well as the Mandate 376 project teams, in identifying user needs and in developing a comprehensive inventory of existing standards as part of the ongoing effort to identifying areas where research or new standards work is needed, such as guidelines to address the needs of older persons and people with disabilities affecting sensory, physical and cognitive abilities;

d) the Declaration on Internet Accessibility adopted by the Dynamic Coalition on Accessibility and Disability at the Internet Governance Forum (IGF) held in Hyderabad India in December 2008;

e) the pronouncement as part of the Hyderabad Declaration of the importance of including the needs of persons with disabilities in all aspects of the design, development, distribution and deployment of appropriate ICT strategies to ensure accessibility, taking into account the universal design principle, existing standards, and the use of assistive technologies;

f) Resolution 58 of the ITU World Telecommunication Development Conference (Hyderabad, 2010), *Access to information and communication technology by persons with disabilities, including persons with age-related disabilities*, which invites Sector Members, *inter alia*, to adopt a universal design principle when designing, producing and creating ICT equipment, services and software from an early stage so as to avoid costly retrofitting measures, and to promote, if applicable, research and development on ICT-accessible equipment, services and software, having due regard to affordability by persons with disabilities;

g) the ITU Telecommunication Development Sector (ITU-D) special initiative on persons with disabilities, and studies under ITU-D Question 20/1 on access to telecommunication services for persons with disabilities;

h) that the Telecommunication Development Bureau, in partnership with G3ict (Global Initiative for Inclusive Information Communication Technologies)[[1]](#footnote-1)1, has elaborated an ICT Accessibility Toolkit for Policy-Makers which is freely available and accessible online, in order to (i) facilitate development of best policies and strategies for implementation of the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities; (ii) provide a platform for sharing best practices on ICT disability issues; and (iii) set forth action steps for an effective policy framework; and

i) the adoption of Resolution 175 (Guadalajara, 2010), *Telecommunication/informationand communication technology accessibility for persons with disabilities, including age-related disabilities*, which underlines the importance of taking into account persons with disabilities in the work of ITU, and the need to adopt a comprehensive action plan in order to extend access to telecommunications/ICTs to persons with disabilities, in collaboration with external entities and bodies concerned with this subject.

**Considering:**

a) Resolution 70 (*Telecommunication/information and communication technology accessibility for persons with disabilities*) adopted by the World Telecommunication Standardization Assembly (Johannesburg, 2008);

b) the following actions in the ITU Telecommunication Standardization Sector (ITU-T): (i) studies on Question 4/2 on human factors‑related issues for improvement of the quality of life through international telecommunications and Question 26/16 on accessibility to multimedia systems and services, including the recent Recommendation ITU-T F.790 on telecommunication accessibility guidelines for older persons and persons with disabilities; (ii) publication by the Telecommunication Standardization Advisory Group (TSAG) of the Guide for ITU study groups *Considering end-user needs in developing Recommendations*; and (iii) the creation of the Joint Coordination Activity on Accessibility and Human Factors for purposes of awareness, advice, assistance, collaboration, coordination and networking;

c) the additional emphasis in Resolution 70 that all study groups recognize the importance of universal design of accessible telecommunication/ICT services, products and terminals and request their chairmen, at the beginning of each study group meeting, to remind meeting participants to take appropriate account of the guide and checklist;

the establishment of an ITU-T Focus Group on Audiovisual Media Accessibility (FG AVA) under ITU-T Study Group 16 for the purpose of exploring ways and means to make audiovisual media accessible for persons with disabilities; and

e) ongoing work in the ITU Radiocommunication Sector (ITU-R) to bridge the digital disability divide.

**Resolves:**

and ITUto identify areas of common interest and promote collaborative relationships;

2) to take into account existing collaborative interaction among the ITU JCA-AHF and ISO and IEC, including new work initiatives, as well as regional and national standardization bodies such as ATIS, ETSI, TIA and others as a basis of establishing and/or strengthening activities and initiatives concerning the use of telecommunication/ICT accessibility for persons with disabilities;

3) to encourage the PSOs and ITU to consider the possibility of highlighting the importance of individual accessibility by means of an annex linked to new work item proposals;

4) to also encourage the PSOs and ITU to support, strengthen and collaborate with ISO/IEC JTC 1/SWG – Accessibility; and

5) toencourge PSOs and ITU to take into account the accessibility needs when considering the requirements for user interface.

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1. 1 A flagship advocacy initiative of UN-GAID, the United Nations Global Alliance for ICT and Development, in collaboration with the Secretariat of the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities. [↑](#footnote-ref-1)