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| INTERNATIONAL TELECOMMUNICATION UNION | **Joint Coordination Activity  On Accessibility and Human Factors** |
| **TELECOMMUNICATIONSTANDARDIZATION SECTOR**STUDY PERIOD 2013-2016 | Doc 17 |
| **English only****Original: English** |
| **Source:** | JCA-AHF Convener |
| **Title:** | Report on accessibility related activities during the ITU-D SG1 and SG2meeting (10-21 of September 2012) |

Accessibility during the ITU-D SG1 and SG2meeting from the 10th- 21st of September 2012

There was a tremendous amount of discussion and material on accessibility for persons with Disabilities presented during these meetings that I have presented an overview.

Andrea J Saks, Convener JCA-AHF

 SG1 Question 20, Access to telecommunication/ICT services by persons with disabilities and with special needs

 Acting rapporteur Abdoulaye Dembele from Mali for Ms Monica Duhem (Mexico).

C 137 Turkey/ The digital library project is aimed to reach nearly 400,000 individuals with visual disabilities as well as other types of disabilities including individuals with cerebral palsy and individuals with reading disabilities in Turkey. Those visually impaired who do not have access to computers and the Internet will be able to access the audio books through the Books on the Phone Project.

C134 SG1/144-SG2 Report on the Focus group.

C 184 from Mali described the introduction of multipurpose community telecentres for persons with disabilities. Again the theme of education was re-emphasised to the use of ICTs for many different types of disabilities. This making ICTs accessible to as many persons with a disability as possible gave greater possibilities to make persons with disabilities more competitive on the labour market;

C 154 A report from the Focal point at the BDT highlighted ITU[-G3ict e-Accessibility Toolkit for Policy Makers for Persons with Disabilities](http://www.e-accessibilitytoolkit.org/), an online toolkit for sharing best practices with policy makers, regulators and other stakeholders on e-accessibility and service needs for persons with disabilities and also ITU G-3ICT Making Television Accessible and a new report the ITU-G3ict Making Mobile Phones and Services Accessible for Persons with Disabilities where again education was emphasised . [A Connect a School toolkit module on using ICTs to promote education and job training for persons with disabilities is available online](http://connectaschool.org/itu-module/15/331/en/persons/w/disabilities/connectivity/introduction/). A film presentation of the opening ceremony of the Paralympics in the United Kingdom was given by the BDT Focal Point which was inspiring.

C 197 Liaison Statement to ITU-D Question 20-1/1, containing the JCA-AHF report of 9 May 2012 meeting from the Convener, JCA-AHF. She explained the role of the JCA and the Dynamic Coalition which liaises with the Internet Governance Forum, noting that she would prepare a revised version of this document. This was not allowed by the SG1 chair as it was considered late and not entirely editorial even though the Liaisons were time sensitive regarding contributions to WTSA and WCIT, The differences in how inter ITU sector liaison are handled by each sector needs to be reviewed and the Convener of the JCA-AHF also the focal point of G3ict made this comment during the brainstorming session in that was held in preparation of for possible amendments to the resolutions at the next WTDC, However one of the repressed liaisons was verbally presented by the representative from Hungary noting that his government has proposed to the World Conference on International Telecommunications 2012 (WCIT) an International Telecommunication Regulation (ITR) recognizing the needs of persons with disabilities. The wording of the proposed ITR states “Member States shall encourage the provision of global services based on international standards that ensure accessible telecommunications and ICT services to persons with disabilities.”

Other questions and Accessibility

SG 1 Question 7 (Implementation of universal access to broadband services)

Application of this solution in all countries will improve education, assist the connection of all citizens globally and it will provide the usage of national resources in an effective way for the future of children and countries. During SG 1 Q7 the US delegation made an intervention and applied this contribution to accessibility for persons with disabilities in that it had been shown that children with autism were greatly benefited by education that utilized technology. The SG 1 chair also pointed out that both SGs were to take note of accessibility for persons with disabilities into all the questions as mandated at WTDC 2010.

SG 2 Q25 (Access technology for broadband telecommunications including IMT, for developing countries

In Document [2/138-E](http://www.itu.int/md/D10-SG02-C-0138) , Ms. Patnaik also drew the meeting’s attention to the need for material in Section 1.3 on “Access to broadband services for persons with disabilities

Contribution 188 SG1 as (C 185 in SG2) Education Based Broadband Transformation

As before comments were made regarding the importance of education with ICTs for persons with disabilities and that all questions should consider accessibility within their questions.

SG 1 Q22 Securing information and communication networks: best practices for developing a culture of Cybersecurity

In the report 1/REP/17(Rev.1)-the document provides a basis for a joint contribution to the next meeting which will examine in more detail the special cybersecurity issues facing children with disabilities. A number of countries agreed to participate in the development of such a contribution. This has not been acted upon during this meeting.

SG2 Question 11-3/2 Examination of terrestrial digital sound and television broadcasting technologies and systems, interoperability of digital terrestrial systems with existing analogue networks, and strategies and methods of migration from analogue terrestrial techniques to digital techniques

This is very important as the BDT along with the G3ict have produced the publication making Television Accessible and making accessibility features available to persons with disabilities like audio description and captioning are extremely important in the new digital technology. This is coupled with the work of the ITU-T Focus Group on AudioVisual Accessibility ( FGAVA) In addition there was liaison from FGFAVA regarding Technical characteristics of wireless aids for hearing impaired people operating in the VHF and UHF frequency where interference is the main problem as not all hearing aides are manufactured using the same digital frequencies.

Question 22-1/2: Utilization of telecommunications/ICTs for disaster preparedness, mitigation and response

This was by the most important. Document 2/224Status Report for the ITU Handbook on “Telecommunication outside plant in areas frequently exposed to natural disasters” produced by the BDT a few years back that needs to be revised and that there was a correspondence email reflector to-do this so it could be turned into a on line tool kit. There was absolutely no mention of a section on accessibility for persons with disabilities. . There is another handbook with produced by the BDT in conjunction with ITU-R. Again there were no chapters on Accessibility for persons with disabilities. Also Document [2/181-E](http://www.itu.int/md/D10-SG02-C-0181) Revision of BDT Handbook on Emergency Telecommunications - Progress Report and Request for Guidance Regarding Publication Format which hopes to make this update an on line tool kit. There is presently a new handbook also being written presently on initial draft Handbook on Public Telecommunications in Disaster Situations by the ITU-T and the author is working with the ITU-T Focus Groupon Disaster Relief Systems, Network Resilience and Recovery.

 A Power point presentation was given by the Chairman of the ITU-T Focus Groupon Disaster Relief Systems, Network Resilience and Recovery (FGDR&NRR) in the hopes that members from ITU-D would participate. . It was also determined by the convener of the JCA-AHF that no coordination had been established between the authors of the ITU-T the new emergency handbook and the correspondence group set up by the members of ITU-D Question 22 1/2 to revise the existing handbook on emergencies. As Monday of the 24th of September this was rectified by the attendance to the FGDR&NRR of both the convener, the convener of the ITU-D correspondence group and the author of the new yet to be completed new ITU-T handbook on Emergencies. Also a Daisy representative, the organization that was mentioned by the JCA-AHF convener that has been working in a practical sense in Japan to develop strategies to include Persons with disabilities in the warning and evacuation before and during natural disasters) was in attendance during the focus group meeting

It was also requested by the Chair of Question 22 1/2 that the convener of the JCA-AHF facilitate and make a contribution for the next meeting in April on Accessibility contacts regarding those person who are working in the area of including Persons in the planning of Disaster awareness and Disaster relief.