|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| INTERNATIONAL TELECOMMUNICATION UNION | | **Joint Coordination Activity   On Accessibility and Human Factors** |
| **TELECOMMUNICATION STANDARDIZATION SECTOR**  STUDY PERIOD 2013-2016 | | **Doc 78** |
| **English only**  **Original: English** |
| **Source:** | TSB | |
| **Title:** | ITU policy ITU Accessibility Policy for persons with disabilities | |

The ITU Council 2013 endorsed the new ITU Accessibility Policy presented here below. The full extent of the document can be found in Contribution 42 C13 “**ITU's activities in promoting accessibility to ICTs for persons with disabilities”** <http://www.itu.int/md/S13-CL-C-0042/en>

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

ITU Accessibility Policy for persons with disabilities

On December 2006, the General Assembly of the United Nations adopted the *Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (CRPD)*, with the purpose of promoting, protecting and ensuring the full and equal enjoyment of all human rights and fundamental freedoms by all persons with disabilities, and of promoting respect for their inherent dignity.

Following the adoption of the CRPD, the 2010 ITU Plenipotentiary Conference adopted Resolution 175 (Guadalajara, 2010), which resolved to take account of persons with disabilities in the work of ITU, instructing the ITU Secretary-General to review ITU services and facilities to make them available to persons with disabilities.

Advancing in the implementation of Resolution 175 (Guadalajara, 2010), and in light of Article 12 of the International Telecommunications Regulations, adopted at the 2012 World Conference on International Telecommunications, ITU undertakes to enable the full participation of persons with disabilities in the activities of the Union, and to promote the empowerment of persons with disabilities through the use of ICTs worldwide.

To achieve this, ITU undertakes to progressively address the barriers that limit the full participation of persons with disabilities in ITU´s activities, either as staff members, meeting participants or general public. In addition, ITU undertakes to apply the principle of “*Universal Design*” whenever a service is reviewed or introduced in ITU so that it is usable by all people, to the greatest extent possible, without the need for adaptation or specialized design. ITU is further committed to mainstream ICT accessibility for persons with disabilities in the programmatic activities of the three Sectors and the General Secretariat.

To the extent possible, ITU will comply with and contribute to the development of policies and guidelines on accessibility in the UN Common System, while participating in knowledge sharing with other organizations and enhancing the Policy using available best practices. ITU will also consult with relevant organizations representing persons with disabilities and with ITU Membership that have experience in ICT accessibility policies and programmes in order to benefit from their insights and best practices.

To ensure the effective implementation of the Policy, ITU will make use of accessible information and communication technologies (ICTs) and undertake periodic information dissemination across and beyond the organization, as well as awareness raising and training activities.

This Policy shall be implemented within available resources and shall come into effect as of the date of its promulgation.

References

[*Resolution 175 (Guadalajara, 2010)*](http://www.itu.int/council/Basic-Texts/ResDecRec-PP10-e.docx#res175)*,* [*Resolutions 56, 58 and 70 (Hyderabad, 2010)*](http://www.itu.int/pub/D-TDC-WTDC-2010/en) *and* [*Resolution 70 (Johannesburg, 2008).*](http://www.itu.int/pub/T-RES-T.70-2008)