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| **Purpose:** | | Admin | | | |
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| **Keywords:** | JCA-AHF; accessibility; report |
| **Abstract:** | This document provides the draft report of JCA-AHF meeting (Geneva, 12 February 2018). |

1. Opening of the meeting

The JCA-AHF meeting was held at 9:30 – 12:30 on 12 February 2018, chaired by Ms Andrea Saks (USA), JCA-AHF Chairman. The meeting was collocated with the Joint meetings of Qs 8, 13, 26, 28/16 Rapporteurs Groups and WP2/16 meeting (12 - 16 February 2018).

1. Agenda and allocation of documents

The Chairman introduced the draft JCA-AHF meeting agenda and document allocation as contained in JCA-AHF [Document 319R2](https://www.itu.int/en/ITU-T/jca/ahf/Documents/docs-2018/14Feb2018/JCA-AHF%20Doc%20319R2%20Draft%20agenda.docx). It was approved by the JCA-AHF without any major change. The complete list of participants is available on JCA-AHF [Document 329](https://www.itu.int/en/ITU-T/jca/ahf/Documents/docs-2018/14Feb2018/JCA-AHF%20Doc%20329.pdf).

1. Approval of the last JCA-AHF meeting report

The last JCA-AHF meeting (8 May 2017) report (JCA-AHF [Document 302](https://www.itu.int/en/ITU-T/jca/ahf/Documents/docs-2017/May%202017/Doc302%20draft%20JCA-AHF%20report.docx)) was approved by the JCA-AHF.

1. Trial of a remote participation tool “Zoom”

The Chairman briefly explained about a trial on a remote participation tool Zoom was being conducted by ITU-TSB at this JCA-AHF, Q26/16 and Q28/16. A separate display for captioning provided via the streamtext link was available as usual, in addition to the overhead screen to display documents.

The captioning window integrated in Zoom was not sufficient because it showed only by sentence and maximum two lines at the same time, with a seven second delay. This caused onsite participants as well to fall behind. Also, the background of the captioning window obliterated the documents. The normal captioning display was in sync as was the normal URL for captioning.

Other than Zoom, the Camera to show the speaker was controlled by the activation of pushing speaker’s microphone button. This did not work in the case for sign language speakers. The voice interpreter voicing the signs of the sign language speaker was shown instead. This would not work for remote sign language attendees.

The meeting participants are encouraged to provide more feedback via email.

1. Review of ITU accessibility activities
   1. ITU-R

Ms Ilham Ghazi, Head of Broadcasting Division of BR and acting Counsellor for ITU-R Study Group 6 made a presentation on ITU-R and BR past work and future tasks. The report contained recent ITU-R activities relating to accessibility from the ITU-R WPs 6B and 6C, and presented power point slides titled “ITU-R at a glance and accessibility matters” (JCA-AHF [Document 325](https://www.itu.int/en/ITU-T/jca/ahf/Documents/docs-2018/14Feb2018/JCA-AHF%20Doc%20325.zip) ). Following documents were highlighted:

* [Draft revision of Report ITU-R BT.2207-2](https://www.itu.int/pub/R-REP-BT.2207) (version 3): Accessibility to broadcasting services for persons with disabilities. This revision is to include the latest development of technologies and some additional editorial changes will be implemented to revise the use of certain terms such as "elderly people" to e.g., older persons that is more acceptable. (ITU-T F.791 – “*Accessibility Terms and Definitions*” would be used in the future.)
* Working document towards a Preliminary Draft New REPORT ITU-R BT. [SIGNING] ([Annex 7 of the Chairman report](https://www.itu.int/md/R15-WP6B-C-0192/en) , TIES protected), relating to Technical realization of signing in digital television.

Some concerns were raised from the floor, including whether persons with disabilities were included in the development of these documents. It was noted that the ITU-R membership (ITU Member States, ITU-R Sector Members, ITU-R SG 6 Associates and ITU Academia) can participate in the ITU-R WPs 6B and 6C meetings. It was also noted that G3ict would soon be granted membership and this could be improved when this procedure would have been completed. Ms Ghazi encouraged the JCA-AHF meeting participants to submit contributions to the work, as these working documents are developed only from received contributions. The Chairman expressed her intention to submit contribution from G3ict with the help of Persons with Disabilities who attend ITU-T meetings.

* 1. General Secretariat

**5.2.1 Accessible publication**

Mr Simon De Nicola, Head of Publication production service of ITU GS reported the progress of ITU accessible publication (JCA-AHF [Document 326​](https://www.itu.int/en/ITU-T/jca/ahf/Documents/docs-2018/14Feb2018/JCA-AHF%20Doc%20326.zip) ). The [accessible publication platform](https://www.itu.int/en/publications/Pages/Epub.aspx) was officially launched on 3rd December 2017 for the International Day of Persons with Disabilities. Fully accessible PDF, Mobi and ePub formats are available on the platform.

Mr Olaf Mittelstaedt from Daisy Consortium explained that ePub standard is now the packaging format for the Daisy standards. This means contents are fully navigable by different devices as shown in the JCA-AHF Document 326.

**5.2.2 Accessibility on ITU PP-18 Website**

Mr Kodjo Tchioffo from Information Service Department of ITU presented the accessibility features implemented in the [ITU PP-18 website](https://www.itu.int/web/pp-18/en/) (JCA-AHF [​Document 327](https://www.itu.int/en/ITU-T/jca/ahf/Documents/docs-2018/14Feb2018/JCA-AHF%20Doc%20327.zip)). The website has been designed to be accessible for all, including persons with disabilities. These would include access by such disabilities as visual, hearing, speech, cognitive, neurological, age-related conditions, etc. The platform is in all six ITU official languages, and is also accessible for all devices based on W3C WCAG 2.0 (considering also upcoming 2.1) Level AA guidelines.

The website envisions to use Text-to-Speech (TTS) cloud service “Readspeaker” which allows the content on the website to be read out loud to users. This can be done automatically or on the press of a keyboard key ([demo](http://app.readspeaker.com/demos/viewdemo.php?demo_id=60050&md5=6475a4c1a59b548daf40f2fbc5485a9b)). For videos posted on the website are captioned, and all future multimedia contents on the website will be captioned.

It was advised that content providers of the website be trained to facilitate the accessibility of future content and any presently submitted content for the conversion of these contents in an accessible format. It was also suggested to check the website through Daisy’s ACE website which allowed to find possible accessibility errors on websites.

Chairman’s small note: After the meeting, Mr Christian Vogler of Gallaudet University tested the platform and contacted Mr Tchioffo and made some suggestions to correct some possible errors in the accessibility of the platform. This was well received. It is hoped that Mr Tchioffo and Mr Vogler will continue the collaboration.

* 1. ITU-D

Ms Roxana Widmer-Iliescu, accessibility focal point from ITU-D BDT presented accessibility activities in ITU-D, which are detailed in JCA-AHF [Document 328](https://www.itu.int/en/ITU-T/jca/ahf/Documents/docs-2018/14Feb2018/JCA-AHF-Doc%20328.docx) which the Chairman encourages all participants to read.

Some of the highlights (but not all) are listed below

* The Telecommunication Development Bureau held a pre-event to WTDC-17 “together for an #accessible world” on 8 October 2017;
* The meeting of WTDC World Telecommunication Development Conferences (WTDC) Buenos Aires, Argentina, from 9 to 20 October 2017;
* The regional event, “Accessible Americas IV: Information and Communication Technologies for ALL”, took place in Costa Rica, from 21 to 23 November 2017.

At the end of Ms Widmer-Iliescu’s presentation, she invited the meeting participants to join the following future events:

* BDT Study Group on Q7/1 (Access to telecommunication/ICT services by persons with disabilities and with specific needs), from 30 April to 4 May;
* The V- Accessible Americas – ICT for ALL will be held in November 2018 in Jamaica.
  1. ITU-T

Mr Masahito Kawamori, ITU-T Q26/16 Rapporteur, reported that [ITU-T H.702](https://www.itu.int/itu-t/recommendations/rec.aspx?rec=12648) - *Accessibility profiles for IPTV systems* has been recognized by the Japanese Government as an international standard for the persons with disbilities. This standard is implemented in Set-Top-Box (STB) whih enables Persons with Disabilites to access both open and closed captioning and sign language in addtion to audio descrption. This acceptanace by the Japanese Govenemnt will allow Persons with Disabilities to buy a STB which implements H.702 at 10% of its normal price. In addition, other countries, such as Equador and Mongolia, are looking into implementing ITU-T H.702.

Then Mr Kawamori also reported that a new ITU-T Recommendation [F.921 - *Audio-based network navigation system for persons with vision impairment*](https://www.itu.int/itu-t/recommendations/rec.aspx?rec=13185) has been given an award by Zero Project and the awarding ceremony would take place in Vienna on the 21st – 23rd of Febraury 2018. Mr Kawarmori, representing ITU, will attend the Zero Project to accept the award along with Wayfindr, the authors of ITU-T F.921.

Finally, Mr Kawamori reported on the [WHO-ITU consultation on Make Listening Safe initiative](http://www.who.int/pbd/deafness/mls_consultation/en/) that was held at WHO headquarters, Geneva, Switzerland, 7-8 February 2018. İt was followed by a special session on safe listening on 9th Februry 2018 at ITU-T Q28/16 at ITU headquarters, to progress work on draft Recommendation F.SLD “Guidelines for safe listening devices/systems”. Mr Kawamori is confident that the draft Recommendation will be consented at July 2018 meeting of ITU-T SG16 in Slovenia.

1. Report from Outside Groups
   1. Report from Gallaudet University

Mr Christian Vogler from Gallaudet University presented JCA-AHF [Document 322​](https://www.itu.int/en/ITU-T/jca/ahf/Documents/docs-2018/14Feb2018/JCA-AHF%20Doc%20322.zip)

* Power Point slides titled “Updates on real-time text deployments in US” and his paper on “Why real time text matters” noting its importance to the deaf community for functional telecommunication and for vital emergency communication.
* Accessible visual home alerting systems based on off-the-shelf IoT technologies. This ranges from visual doorbell alerts to fire hazard warnings and is of great significance to the deaf community of all ages.

6.2. Report from European Federation of Hard of Hearing People (EFHOH)

Ms Lidia Best, Vice-President of EFHOH, presented PowerPoint slides titled “Recent issues related to accessibility for hard of hearing people” that explained the latest issues of telecoils and the latest accessibility needs of hard of hearing people (JCA-AHF [Document 323](https://www.itu.int/en/ITU-T/jca/ahf/Documents/docs-2018/14Feb2018/JCA-AHF%20Doc%20323.ppt)).

The latest issues relate to the EU Radio Equipment Directive ( RED) which included all equipment operating below 9Khz. This means that t-coils related equipment has fallen under regulation and licence requirement. Previously this was not the case. In addition to this move, there is no legal clause in the Directive to exclude t-coils related equipment from license requirements. The efforts to resolve the situation are ongoing.

Second issue relate to European Accessibility Act and the European Commission removing specific requirement for t-coils compatibility of electronic equipment. This is despite clear recommendations from the European Parliament and PwD representatives.

6.3. DeafKids international with nWise

Mr Christopher Jones, Chairman of Deaf Access to Communications (DAC), a Special Interest Group under United Kingdom Council on Deafness (UKCoD), presented a contribution from DeafKids International and nWise (JCA-AHF [Document 324](https://www.itu.int/en/ITU-T/jca/ahf/Documents/docs-2018/14Feb2018/JCA-AHF%20Doc324.pdf)). This is about a Video Relay Service (VRS) to provide a child helpline to Deaf children who need assistance in their lives. This already exists in the UK for children who can hear using the normal telephone. Deaf children may not be able to do use the normal hearing telephone so this is an important step forward to protect and aid deaf children.

Mr Vogler questioned whether a coversation happens between the deaf child and a cousellor who would be proficient in sign language without the use of an interpreter. This will be clarified by correspondence.

## 6.4. Invited expert - Mr Daniel BATTU

The JCA-AHF Chairman presented JCA-AHF [Document 318](https://www.itu.int/en/ITU-T/jca/ahf/Documents/docs-2018/14Feb2018/JCA-AHF-Doc%20318.docx) on Bridging the Digital Divide for "vulnerable" people on behalf of Mr Daniel BATTU, invited expert. Mr. Battu was in attendance remotely and was able to communicate via the chat box.

The contribution suggests consideration in order to increase the usages of ICT for all the citizens including vulnerable people. This especially considers the access of older persons as well as those persons who have disabilities. There was insufficient time to go into a group discussion.

The Chairman suggested to discuss offline the possibility to start work on this matter within Q26/16.

Note from the chairman: Happily since the meeting email correspondence has begun between interested parties and Mr. Battu.

1. Closing of the meeting

The Chairman closed the meeting, thanking the meeting participants, the interpreters, the caption writer and ITU staff for their support.

Notes: Following documents are not explicitly reviewed during the meeting due to the lack of time. It is recommended that all participants have a look at them for information:

* JCA-AHF [Document 317](https://www.itu.int/en/ITU-T/jca/ahf/Documents/docs-2018/14Feb2018/Doc%20317%20List%20of%20LSs.docx) - List and summary of Liaison Statements
* JCA-AHF [Document 320](https://www.itu.int/en/ITU-T/jca/ahf/Documents/docs-2018/14Feb2018/JCA-AHF-Doc320.docx) - List of ITU-T liaison rapporteurs to JCA-AHF

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