

SG21 ad hoc group on Embodied AI future directions (AHG-EAI)

TERMS OF REFERENCE

NOTE: These ToR were agreed at the second meeting of SG21 (Geneva, 6-17 October 2025) (Ref. [SG21-TD228R1/PLEN](#)).

Given the discussions at the [ITU Embodied AI workshop](#) (10 October 2025) and the related highlighted workshop recommendations, recorded in [SG21-TD213/PLEN](#), this AHG is established to study Embodied AI future directions for SG21. The timeline of the AHG-EAI is of 9 months, until next SG21 meeting in July 2026 when SG21 will review the need to extend or terminate the AHG.

The AHG will meet twice, earlier November and earlier December with the objectives to discuss the best way forward for SG21 on Embodied AI standardization. The following considerations will be reviewed and analysed.

First milestone: The AHG will report to SG21 Management Team their suggestions on a possible way forward by end of December 2025 and in advance of the planned TSAG meeting (Geneva, 26-30 January 2026), this will provide an opportunity to propose to TSAG any action, if appropriate and if needed.

Second milestone: The AHG will also consider the opportunity to enhance visibility and involve non-traditional ITU stakeholders in our Embodied AI activities. For example, by organizing a workshop during the SG21 meeting in July 2026, under the auspices of the AI for Good Global Summit that will be organized in co-location.

The AHG will explore possible approaches to advancing Embodied AI standards or pre-standards work, with comparison and analysis, considering some of the possible ideas discussed at the 10 October 2025 workshop:

- Build on the consented draft Recommendation F.748.66 (ex F.RF-EAI) *Requirements and framework for embodied artificial intelligence systems* and develop more standards related to Embodied AI.
 - A new focus group on embodied AI for multimedia, to continue inclusive, collaborative studies and standardization.
 - Leverage existing standards (e.g., JPEG, telebiometrics) and avoid duplication by joint development with other SDOs.
 - Prioritize standards for human-in-the-loop, transparency, and explainability in EAI systems.
 - Address security, privacy, and life recognition gaps through new protocols and updates to existing standards.
 - Promote open-source and community-driven benchmarking for embodied AI.
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