

Terms of Reference for the ITU Intersector Rapporteur Group on Audiovisual Quality Assessment (IRG-AVQA)

1 Scope

The Intersector Rapporteur Group on Audiovisual Quality Assessment (IRG-AVQA) is established in accordance with Annex C of WTSA Resolution 18 (Rev. Hammamet, 2016), and the corresponding provisions in Annex 4 to Resolution ITU-R 6-2. The IRG-AVQA aims to

- coordinate the progress of specific topics of mutual interest restricted to the area of video and audiovisual quality assessment, both subjective and objective;
- identify potential work items that may be progressed as joint text Recommendations;
- benefit from colocation with the meetings of the Video Quality Experts Group (VQEG) where video/audiovisual quality experts meet and execute technical work;
- encourage collaboration between ITU-T SG12 and ITU-R SG 6 on work items unique to each study group;

The IRG-AVQA will collaborate with other SDOs, if appropriate, and other quality assessment communities (e.g., forums and consortia, research institutes and academia).

2 Rationale

For the past years ITU-T SG9 and SG12 have coordinated via the Joint Rapporteur Group on Multimedia Quality Assessment (JRG-MMQA). This coordination has been of mutual benefit to both study groups. Most of the meetings of this JRG were collocated with VQEG meetings. During this time the experts in video quality from the ITU-R WP6C were unable to participate as equals (from an ITU point of view) with their colleagues from the ITU-T. At the WTSA-12 held in Dubai, WTSA-12 Resolution 18 was revised to allow for the ITU-R experts to join in the joint work with ITU-T experts. This IRG will address the topic of video and audiovisual quality assessment. Therefore this IRG will continue and extend the coordinating work of the JRG-MMQA while including the experts of the ITU-R WP 6C on a peer-to-peer basis.

At the WTSA-16 held in Hammamet, study on quality assessment in ITU-T SG9 and SG12 was consolidated into ITU-T SG12.

The primary aim of this IRG is to assist development of globally unique future ITU-T and ITU-R Recommendations on video and audiovisual quality assessment including assessing the quality of signals displayed and heard on mobile devices, computer screens, home theatre, etc. and using any Resolution including, for example, QCIF, CIF, VGA, SDTV, HDTV, 3DTV, UHD TV and HDR-TV with or without accompanying audio.

WP 6C has also started studies on the topic of AIAV (Advanced Immersive Audio Visual) systems for programme production and exchange.

3 Relationship within and outside ITU-T

While the primary objective of this IRG is to foster coordination and collaboration between ITU-T SG12, ITU-R WP 6C, and VQEG, collaboration with any relevant study group or other group is encouraged.

The following ITU study groups and working parties have particular relevance to this IRG:

- ITU-T Study Group 16 on video coding, IPTV applications and accessibility (including JCA-AHF, FG-AVA);
- ITU-R Working Party 6A (WP 6A) – Terrestrial broadcasting delivery;
- ITU-R Working Party 6B (WP 6B) – Broadcast service assembly and access.

Special attention should be paid to potential collaboration with any other SDOs (in particular SCTE, DVB, 3D Society & 3D@Home Consortium, EBU, and IETF). Other SDOs and groups may be identified in the future.

4 Parent groups

The parent groups are ITU-T Study Group 12 and ITU-R Study Group 6.

5 Participation

Participation is limited to members of ITU-T and ITU-R. The IRG-AVQA Chairma(e)n may invite individual experts as appropriate.

A list of participants will be maintained for reference purposes and reported to the parent groups as an attachment to the report of each meeting (see clause 8).

6 Deliverables

An IRG may develop draft new Recommendations or draft revisions to Recommendations, as well as draft technical reports, to be submitted to its parent study groups for further processing as appropriate). IRG-AVQA will identify such deliverables and make a proposal to its parent study groups (see clause 8).

Each study group will be responsible for their own Recommendations. Any joint text Recommendations will be approved by all study groups.

The results of an IRG's work should represent the agreed consensus of the IRG or reflect the diversity of views of the participants in the IRG.

7 Meetings

The frequency and location of meetings will be determined by the IRG and the overall meetings plan should be announced as soon as possible. The IRG should use remote collaboration tools to the maximum extent, and collocation with existing meetings (e.g., study groups or VQEG).

The meetings will be announced by electronic means (e.g., e-mail and website, etc.) at least 2 months in advance.

8 Meeting reports

IRG-AVQA will prepare reports on its activities, to be submitted to each meeting of its parent study groups.

9 Working language

The working language will be English.

10 Working guidelines

IRG-AVQA is regulated by the provisions applicable to rapporteur groups, given in Resolution ITU-R 1-7 and in Recommendation ITU-T A.1 (see also the ITU-T manual for Rapporteurs and Editors at <http://www.itu.int/oth/T0A0F000006/en>).

Additionally the IRG will follow the guidelines found in WTSA Resolution 18, Annex C and in the corresponding provisions in Annex 4 to Resolution ITU-R 6-2.

11 Patent policy

The Common Patent Policy for ITU-T/ITU-R/ISO/IEC is to be used.

12 Leadership

See WTSA Resolution 18, Annex C, item c and Resolution ITU-R 6-2 Annex 4, item c.

13 Termination of the IRG-AVQA

The IRG-AVQA will continue until the end of the current ITU-T Study Period (2017-2020). It may be extended by mutual approval of its parent study groups.
