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Geneva, 20 December 2013

- To Administrations of Member States of the Union;
- To ITU-T and ITU-R Sector Members;
- To ITU-T and ITU-R Associates;
- To ITU-T and ITU-R Academia

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**Copy to:**

- Chairmen and Vice-Chairmen of all ITU-T and ITU-R Study Groups;
- Director of the Telecommunication Development Bureau;

Subject: **Creation of a new ITU Intersector Rapporteur Group on Audiovisual Quality Assessment (IRG-AVQA) and its first meeting, Boulder CO USA, 21-24 January 2014**

Dear Sir/Madam,

1 We are pleased to announce the establishment of the new **ITU Intersector Rapporteur Group on Audiovisual Quality Assessment (IRG-AVQA)**, further to the agreement by ITU-T SG9 on 18 January 2013, ITU-T SG12 on 28 March 2013 and ITU-R SG6 on 22 November 2013.

2 The IRG-AVQA will study topics related to video and audiovisual quality assessment among ITU-R SG6, ITU-T SG9 and ITU-T SG12. The IRG-AVQA aims to

- coordinate work among the three study groups;
- collect and distribute information;
- develop joint text Recommendations;
- provide a point-of-contact for the Video Quality Experts Group (VQEG).

The IRG-AVQA allows rapporteurs to:

- exchange information faster, using email and joint meetings;
- seek participation from a broader range of ITU members;
- invite input from non-member experts (e.g., from academia);
- keep people informed at the early stage of work;
- set up a joint edit session on a Recommendation;
- socialize work items that approach maturity. §

Participants who can contribute technology proposals are invited and encouraged to join the group.

The IRG-AVQA intends to emphasize remote participation and co-located meetings (e.g., with a study group meeting, interim rapporteur meeting or a VQEG meeting). The group intends to emphasize short meetings, to minimize the time impact on participants.

With the establishment of the IRG-AVQA, the Joint Rapporteur Group on Multimedia Quality Assessment (JRG-MMQA) among ITU-T SG9 and ITU-T SG12 is officially closed. The IRG-AVQA will continue and extend the coordinating work of the JRG-MMQA while including the experts of the ITU-R WP6C on a peer-to-peer basis.

The primary aim of this new IRG is to assist development of ITU-T and ITU-R Recommendations on video and audiovisual quality assessment. The IRG-AVQA webpage is available at <http://itu.int/en/irg/avqa>. An email list will be provided and will be included as a link on this webpage.

3 The agreed Terms of Reference of IRG-AVQA are reproduced in **Annex 1**.

4 This IRG is regulated by the provisions applicable to rapporteur groups, given in Resolution ITU-R 1-6 and in Recommendation ITU-T A.1 (clause 2.3 in particular). The electronic working methods for the group will be described shortly on the IRG webpage. The discussions will be held in English only.

5 The first meeting of IRG-AVQA is scheduled to take place in Boulder, CO, USA, 21-24 January 2014. Up-to-date information will be available from the IRG web page.

For convenience of participants, this first meeting will be collocated with the [VQEG](#) meeting.

6 Remote participation will be available for the meeting. More information about remote participation will be available on the IRG web page.

7 The items for discussion at the meeting will be made available on the IRG-AVQA web page, together with information related to the meeting, a draft agenda, and the contributions received. Document preparation and submission instructions will also be detailed on the IRG-AVQA web page.

Yours faithfully,

Malcolm Johnson  
Director,  
Telecommunication Standardization Bureau

François Rancy  
Director,  
Radiocommunication Bureau

Annex: 1

## **ANNEX 1** **(to TSB Circular 74/BR Circular CACE/655)**

### **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), to be established in accordance with Annex C of WTSA-12 Resolution 18, and the corresponding provisions in Resolution (in line with the Conclusions of the Radiocommunication Advisory Group (RAG) taken at their meeting on 22-24 May 2013, ref. Agenda Item 5 in <http://itu.int/en/ITU-R/conferences/rag/Documents/SUMOFCONCLFINAL.docx>), 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 SG9, 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 eight 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 WP6C on a peer-to-peer basis.

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 theater, etc. and using any resolution including, for example, QCIF, CIF, VGA, SDTV, HDTV, 3DTV, UHDTV with or without accompanying audio.

#### **3 Relationship within and outside ITU-T**

While the primary objective of this IRG is to foster coordination and collaboration between ITU-T SG9, 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 9, 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 1-6 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-12 Resolution 18, Annex C and in the corresponding provisions in Resolution ITU-R 6 (in line with the Conclusions of the Radiocommunication Advisory Group (RAG) taken at their meeting on 22-24 May 2013).

#### **11 Patent policy**

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

#### **12 Leadership**

See WTSA-12 Resolution 18, Annex C, item c and the corresponding provisions in Resolution ITU-R 6 (in line with the Conclusions of the Radiocommunication Advisory Group (RAG) taken at their meeting on 22-24 May 2013)

### **13 Termination of the IRG-AVQA**

The IRG-AVQA will continue until the end of the current ITU-T Study Period (2013-2016). It may be extended by mutual approval of all three study groups.

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