



ITU-T Study Group 3: Work on Over-the-top (OTTs)

**Joint ITU-T Study Group 2/ITU-T Study Group 3 Regional Workshop
on Topics of Mutual Interest**

4 March 2024, Kuwait City, Kuwait

Ahmed Said, Ministry of Communications and Information Technology, Egypt

About ITU-T Study Group 3

- Study Group 3 is the Lead Study Group for:
 - **tariff and accounting principles**,
 - **economic issues**,
 - **policy issues** relating to international telecommunications/ICT
- **World Telecommunication Standardization Assembly (WTSA-20)** provided SG3's mandate:
 - “to study the economic and regulatory impact of the Internet, **new and emerging technologies**, convergence (services or infrastructure) and new services, such as **over-the-top (OTT)**, on international telecommunication services and networks.”



Hot Topics under ITU-T SG3:

Consumer Protection

Over-the-Top (OTT)

Digital Financial Services

International and Regional
Roaming

International Internet
Connectivity (IIC)

Digital Identity

Big Data

Roaming Aspects of
Internet of Things (IoT) and
Machine to Machine (M2M)

Question 9/3

Economic and policy aspects of the Internet, convergence (services or infrastructure) and OTTs in the context of international telecommunication/ICT services and networks

The **tasks** to be undertaken by this Question include:

- Study the specific **international and regional aspects** of the economic and regulatory relationship between the Internet, convergence, OTTs, and **international telecommunication networks and services**, with explicit consideration to developing countries.
- **Terms and definitions** for recommendations or studies dealing with this question.

Rapporteur of Q9/3:

– **Ms. Hilda Mutseyekwa**

(Postal and Telecommunications Regulatory Authority of Zimbabwe (POTRAZ), Zimbabwe)

ITU-T Standards on OTTs

[Recommendation ITU-T D.262 \(2019\)](#), *Collaborative framework for OTTs*

- Provides a collaborative framework in order:
 - To promote competition, consumer protection, consumer benefits, dynamic innovation, sustainable investment and infrastructure development, accessibility and affordability in relation to the global growth of the over the top (OTT) applications.
- Provides a **definition of over-the-top (OTT)**:
 - An application accessed and delivered over the public Internet that may be a direct technical/functional substitute for traditional international telecommunication services.

NOTE – The definition of OTT is a matter of national sovereignty and may vary among Member States

ITU-T Standards on OTTs (*continued*)

[Recommendation ITU-T D.1101 \(2020\)](#), ***Enabling environment for voluntary commercial arrangements between telecommunication network operators and OTT providers***

- Addresses the measures for strengthening the commercial cooperation between over the top (OTT) providers and telecom operators.
- Encourages relevant stakeholders to work towards an enabling regulatory environment that supports and encourages the development of innovative business models in line with the advancement of technology and innovations, which are changing faster than ever.

[Recommendation ITU-T D.1102 \(2021\)](#), ***Customer redress and consumer protection mechanisms for OTTs***

- Proposes initiatives to be taken by Member States and Regulatory Authorities and OTT providers to ensure good customer service and consumer protection for users of OTTs.

ITU-T Standards on OTTs (*continued*)

[Technical Report \(2017\)](#), *Economic impact of OTTs*

- Provides technical and policy background to the international community in both developed and developing countries as to the nature and implications of Over-the-Top (OTT) and related online services.
- Revision of this report is under progress.

[African regional Recommendation ITU-T D.608R \(2022\)](#), *OTT Voice Bypass*

- Covers the need for national and regional collaboration to mitigate the challenges posed by OTT bypass to ensure effective consumer protection and revenue assurance for operators and Member States.

ITU-T Standards on OTTs (*continued*)

Arab regional Recommendation ITU-T D.700R, *Principles for dealing with OTTs* (**Determined**)

- Seeks to provide guidance to Arab States in relation to the global growth of OTTs in view of ensuring fair competition, consumer protection, dynamic innovation, sustainable investment and infrastructure development, accessibility and affordability of services to the largest part of population.
- Proposed **for approval at the SG3RG-ARB meeting** (Kuwait City, 6-7 March 2024).

ITU workshop on “Economic and fiscal incentives to accelerate digital transformation of data and applications over telecommunication infrastructure” (Geneva, 3-4 November 2022)

- Jointly organized between Standardization Sector (ITU-T) and Development Sector (ITU-D).
- Main objective of the workshop was to discuss **economic and fiscal incentives to accelerate digital transformation of data and applications over telecommunications infrastructure** in the context of the new digital economy taxation, its international coordination, and the views of industry, academia and society.
- Perspectives of **industry, academia, and civil society** were provided.
- Ongoing work of **OECD/G20 Inclusive Framework on Base Erosion and Profit Shifting (BEPS)** was also considered.
- Presentations can be found [here](#). Full summary and highlights can be found in [SG3-TD66/PLEN](#).

Looking ahead: Ongoing work within SG3

- ITU-T SG3 continues working on the following work items:
 - ✓ Recommendation on OTT Bypass ([D.OTTBypass](#))
 - ✓ Technical Report on OTT bypass ([TR_OTTbypass](#))
 - ✓ Study on “Policy, Regulatory, and Economic Aspects of OTTs in the context of international telecommunication/ICT services and networks” ([STUDY_OTTs](#))
 - ✓ Technical Report on “Establishing International Reporting Standards for OTT Applications” ([TR_OTTReporting](#))
 - ✓ Regional Recommendation on OTT bypass including national and regional collaboration between Member States and operators to deal with the OTT bypass issue ([D7_R_OTTBypass](#))
 - ✓ Regional Technical Report “OTTs Impact on Telecommunications Network Investment” ([Study_OTTnetworkinvestment](#))
- Find out more on [SG3 Work Programme](#).

Thank you!

ITU-T Study Group 3 webpage:
<https://www.itu.int/go/tsg3>

