CS/ARTICLE 19 – PP-14 Telecommunication Standardization Study Groups and Advisory Group

116 PP-98	The respective duties of the telecommunication standardization study groups and advisory group are specified in the Convention.

CV/ARTICLE 14A - PP-14 Telecommunication Standardization Advisory Group

197A PP-98 PP-02	1 The telecommunication standardization advisory group shall be open to representatives of administrations of Member States and representatives of Sector Members and to chairmen of the study groups and other groups.
197B PP-98	2 The telecommunication standardization advisory group shall:
197C PP-98	1) review priorities, programmes, operations, financial matters and strategies for activities in the Telecommunication Standardization Sector;
197CA PP-02	1*bis*) review the implementation of the operational plan of the preceding period in order to identify areas in which the Bureau has not achieved or was not able to achieve the objectives laid down in that plan, and advise the Director on the necessary corrective measures;
197D PP-98	2) review progress in the implementation of the programme of work established under No.188 of this Convention;
197E PP-98	3) provide guidelines for the work of study groups;
197F PP-98	4) recommend measures, *inter alia*, to foster cooperation and coordination with other relevant bodies, with the Radiocommunication Sector, the Telecommunication Development Sector and the General Secretariat;
197G PP-98	5) adopt its own working procedures compatible with those adopted by the world telecommunication standardization assembly;
197H PP-98	6) prepare a report for the Director of the Telecommunication Standardization Bureau indicating action in respect of the above items.
197I PP-98	7) prepare a report for the world telecommunication standardization assembly on the matters assigned to it in accordance with No.191A and transmit it to the Director for submission to the assembly.

Resolution 1 (Rev. Hammamet, 2016) - Rules of procedure of the ITU Telecommunication Standardization Sector

Section 4 - Telecommunication Standardization Advisory Group

4.1 In accordance with Article 14A of the Convention, the Telecommunication Standardization Advisory Group (TSAG) shall be open to representatives of administrations of Member States and representatives of ITU-T Sector Members and to chairmen of the study groups and other groups or their

designated representatives. The Director of TSB or the Director's designated representatives shall participate in TSAG. The chairmen of the study groups and other groups, according to the case, or their designated representatives (e.g. vice-chairmen) shall also participate in TSAG.

4.2 TSAG's principal duties are to review priorities, programmes, operations, financial matters and strategies for ITU-T's activities, to review progress in the implementation of ITU-T's work programme, to provide guidelines for the work of the study groups and to recommend measures, *inter alia*, to foster cooperation and coordination with other relevant bodies, within ITU-T and with the Radiocommunication (ITU-R) and Telecommunication Development (ITU-D) Sectors and the General Secretariat, and with other standardization organizations, forums and consortia outside ITU, including the Universal Postal Union.

4.3 TSAG will identify changing requirements and provide advice on appropriate changes to be made to the priority of work in ITU-T study groups, planning, and allocation of work between study groups (and the coordination of that work with other Sectors), giving due regard to the cost and availability of resources within TSB and the study groups. TSAG shall monitor the activities of any joint coordination activities and may also recommend the establishment of such activities, if appropriate. TSAG may also advise on further improvements to ITU-T working methods. TSAG shall monitor the activities of the lead study groups and advise on the progress report as presented to TSAG. TSAG shall endeavour to ensure that the programmes of work across the study groups are successfully completed.

4.3*bis* WTSA shall appoint the chairman and vice-chairmen of TSAG in accordance with WTSA Resolution 35 (Rev. Hammamet, 2016).

4.4 WTSA may assign temporary authority to TSAG between two consecutive WTSAs to consider and act on matters specified by WTSA. WTSA should assure itself that the special functions entrusted to TSAG do not require financial expenses exceeding the ITU-T budget. TSAG may consult with the Director on these matters, if necessary. TSAG should report to the next WTSA on its activities on the fulfilment of specific functions assigned to it, pursuant to No. 197I of the Convention and WTSA Resolution 22 (Rev. Hammamet, 2016). Such authority shall terminate when the following WTSA meets, although WTSA may decide to extend it for a specified period.

4.5 TSAG shall hold regular scheduled meetings, included on the ITU-T timetable of meetings. The meetings should take place as necessary, but at least once a year[3].

4.6 In the interest of minimizing the length and costs of the meetings, the chairman of TSAG should collaborate with the Director in making appropriate advance preparation, for example by identifying the major issues for discussion.

4.7 In general, the same rules of procedure that apply to study groups shall also apply to TSAG and its meetings. However, at the discretion of the chairman, written proposals may be submitted during the TSAG meeting provided they are based on ongoing discussions taking place during the meeting and are intended to assist in resolving conflicting views which exist during the meeting.

4.8 A report on its activities shall be prepared by TSAG after each meeting. This report is to be made available within an objective of six weeks after the closure of the meeting and is to be distributed in accordance with normal ITU-T procedures.

4.9 TSAG shall prepare a report for the assembly on the matters assigned to TSAG by the previous WTSA. At its last meeting prior to WTSA, TSAG shall, pursuant to No. 197H of the Convention, prepare a report which summarizes its activities since the previous WTSA. This report

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[3] The Director and the study group chairmen may use the opportunity of these meetings to consider any appropriate measure related to activities described in 4.4 and 5.5.

shall offer advice on the allocation of work, and proposals on ITU-T working methods and on strategies and relations with other relevant bodies inside and outside ITU, as appropriate. The TSAG report to WTSA should also include proposals for WTSA Resolution 2, i.e. the titles of study groups with their responsibilities and mandates. These reports shall be submitted to the assembly by the Director.

Resolution 22 (Rev. Hammamet, 2016) - Authorization for the Telecommunication Standardization Advisory Group to act between world telecommunication standardization assemblies

The World Telecommunication Standardization Assembly (Hammamet, 2016),

considering

a)   that, under the provisions of Article 14A of the ITU Convention, the Telecommunication Standardization Advisory Group (TSAG) is to provide guidelines for the work of study groups and recommend measures to foster coordination and cooperation with other standards bodies;

b)   that the rapid pace of change in the telecommunication environment and in industry groups dealing with telecommunications demands that the ITU Telecommunication Standardization Sector (ITU-T) make decisions on matters such as work priorities, study group structure and meeting schedules in shorter periods of time, between world telecommunication standardization assemblies (WTSA), in order to maintain its relevance and responsiveness in accordance with No. 197C of the Convention;

c)   that Resolution 122 (Rev. Guadalajara, 2010) of the Plenipotentiary Conference resolves that WTSA shall continue, in accordance with its responsibilities, and subject to available financial resources, to promote the continued evolution of the standardization sector and adequately address strategic issues in standardization by means such as, but not limited to, the strengthening of TSAG;

d)   that Resolution 122 (Rev. Guadalajara, 2010) instructs the Director of the Telecommunication Standardization Bureau (TSB) to continue, in consultation with relevant bodies, and the ITU membership, and in coordination with the ITU Radiocommunication Sector (ITU-R) and the ITU Telecommunication Development Sector (ITU-D), as appropriate, to organize a Global Standards Symposium (GSS);

e)   that GSS was held in conjunction with this assembly to consider bridging the standardization gap and examining global ICT standards challenges;

f)   that TSAG continues to make proposals for enhancing the operational efficiency of ITU-T, for improving the quality of ITU-T Recommendations and for methods of coordination and cooperation;

g)   that TSAG can help improve coordination of the study process and provide improved decision-making processes for the important areas of ITU-T activities;

h)   that flexible administrative procedures, including those related to budgetary considerations, are needed in order to adapt to rapid changes in the telecommunication environment;

i)   that it is desirable for TSAG to act in the four years between WTSAs in order to meet the needs of the marketplace in a timely manner;

j)   that it is desirable for TSAG to consider the implications of new technologies for the standardization activities of ITU-T and how such technologies can be included within the ITU-T work programme;

k)   that TSAG can play an important role in ensuring coordination between study groups, as appropriate, on standardization issues including, as required, avoiding duplication of work, and identifying linkages and dependencies between related work items;

l)   that TSAG, in providing advice to study groups, may take account of the advice of other groups;

m)   that there is a need to continue improving coordination and collaboration with other relevant bodies, within ITU-T, with ITU-R and ITU-D and the General Secretariat, and with other standardization organizations, forums and consortia outside of ITU, and relevant entities;

n)   that WTSA-12 established the Review Committee, which conducted a strategic and structural review of ITU-T from 2013 to 2016 and submitted its final report to this assembly,

noting
a)   that Article 13 of the Convention states that a WTSA may assign specific matters within its competence to TSAG indicating the action required on those matters;

b)   that the duties of WTSA are specified in the Convention;

c)   that the current four-year cycle for WTSAs effectively precludes the possibility of addressing unforeseen issues requiring urgent action in the interim period between assemblies;

d)   that TSAG meets at least on a yearly basis;

e)   that TSAG has already exhibited the capability to act effectively on matters assigned to it by WTSA;

f)   that Resolution 68 (Rev. Hammamet, 2016) of this assembly instructs the Director of TSB to organize meetings for high-level industry executives, e.g. chief technology officer meetings, in order to assist in identifying and coordinating standardization priorities and subjects and minimize the number of forums and consortia,

recognizing
that the Plenipotentiary Conference (Marrakesh, 2002) adopted Nos. 191A and 191B of the Convention that allow WTSA to establish and terminate other groups,

resolves
1   to assign to TSAG the following specific matters within its competence between this assembly and the next assembly to act in the following areas in consultation with the Director of TSB, as appropriate:

a)   maintain up-to-date, efficient and flexible working guidelines;

b)   assume responsibility, including development and submission for approval under appropriate procedures, for the ITU-T A-series Recommendations (Organization of the work of ITU-T);

c)   restructure and establish ITU-T study groups, taking into account the needs of the ITU-T membership and in response to changes in the telecommunication marketplace, and assign chairmen and vice-chairmen to act until the next WTSA in accordance with Resolution 35 (Rev. Hammamet, 2016) of this assembly;

d)   issue advice on study group schedules to meet standardization priorities;

e)   while recognizing the primacy of the study groups in carrying out the activities of ITU-T, create, terminate or maintain other groups, including focus groups, appoint their chairmen and vice-chairmen, and establish their terms of reference with a defined duration, in accordance with Nos. 191A and 191B of the Convention, in order to enhance and improve the effectiveness of ITU-T's work as well as promoting flexibility in responding rapidly to high-priority issues; such groups shall not adopt Questions or Recommendations, in accordance with Article 14A of the Convention, but work on a specific mandate;

f)   identify changing requirements and provide advice on appropriate changes to be made to the priority of work in ITU-T study groups, planning and allocation of work between study groups, having due regard for the cost and availability of resources;

g)   review reports of and consider appropriate proposals made by coordination groups and other groups, and implement those that are agreed;

h)   establish the appropriate mechanism and encourage the utilization, for example, of coordination groups or other groups, to address key topics of work which span several study groups, with a view to ensuring effective coordination of standardization topics in order to achieve suitable global solutions;

i)   review progress in the implementation of the ITU-T work programme, including fostering coordination and collaboration with other relevant bodies such as standardization organizations, forums and consortia outside of ITU;

j)   advise the Director of TSB on financial and other matters;

k)   approve the programme of work arising from the review of existing and new Questions and determine the priority, urgency, estimated financial implications and time-scale for the completion of their study;

l)   group, as far as practicable, Questions of interest to developing countries, including the least developed countries, small island developing states, landlocked developing countries and countries with economies in transition, in order to facilitate their participation in these studies;

m)   address other specific matters within the competence of WTSA, subject to the approval of Member States, using the approval procedure contained in Resolution 1 (Rev. Hammamet, 2016) of this assembly, Section 9;

2   that TSAG examine implementation of the actions and achievement of the goals as reflected in the annual operational plans and in the WTSA-16 Action Plan, which includes the WTSA resolutions, for the purpose of identifying possible difficulties and possible strategies for implementing key elements, and recommending solutions to the Director of TSB regarding them;

3   that revisions to the relevant procedures for the adoption of Questions and Recommendations by study groups, other than those referred to in Nos. 246D, 246F and 246H of the Convention, may be initiated by TSAG for approval by Member States between WTSAs, using the approval procedure contained in Resolution 1 (Rev. Hammamet) of this assembly, Section 9;

4   that TSAG provide liaison on its activities to organizations outside ITU in consultation with the Director of TSB, as appropriate;

5   that TSAG consider the implications, for ITU-T, of market needs and new emerging technologies that have not yet been considered for standardization by ITU-T, establish an appropriate mechanism to facilitate the examination of their consideration, for example assigning Questions, coordinating the work of study groups or establishing coordination groups or other groups, and appoint their chairmen and vice-chairmen;

6   that TSAG review and coordinate standardization strategies for ITU-T by identifying the main technological trends and market, economic and policy needs in the fields of activity relevant to the mandate of ITU-T, and identify possible topics and issues for consideration in ITU-T's standardization strategies;

7   that TSAG establish an appropriate mechanism to facilitate standardization strategies, for example assigning Questions, coordinating the work of study groups or establishing coordination groups or other groups, and appoint their chairmen and vice-chairmen;

8   that TSAG consider the result of this assembly concerning GSS and take follow-up actions, as appropriate;

9   that a report on the above TSAG activities shall be submitted to the next WTSA,

instructs the Director of the Telecommunication Standardization Bureau

1   to take into consideration the advice and guidance of TSAG in order to improve the effectiveness and efficiency of the Sector;

2   to provide to each TSAG meeting a report on the implementation of WTSA resolutions and actions to be undertaken pursuant to their operative paragraphs;

3   to provide information about any work item that has not given rise to any contribution in the time interval of the previous two study group meetings through his or her report about study group activity;

4   to report to TSAG on the experience in the implementation of the A-series Recommendations for consideration by the ITU-T membership.

Resolution 35 (Rev. Hammamet, 2016) - Appointment and maximum term of office for chairmen and vice-chairmen of study groups of the Telecommunication Standardization Sector and of the Telecommunication Standardization Advisory Group

The World Telecommunication Standardization Assembly (Hammamet, 2016),

considering

a)   that No. 189 of the ITU Convention provides for the establishment of study groups of the ITU Telecommunication Standardization Sector (ITU-T);

b)   that Article 20 of the Convention provides that, in appointing chairmen and vice-chairmen, personal competence and equitable geographical distribution should be especially kept in mind, as well as the need to promote more effective participation by developing countries[1];

c)   that No. 192 of the Convention and other related provisions indicate the nature of the work of the study groups;

d)   that provisions for the Telecommunication Standardization Advisory Group (TSAG) have been incorporated in Article 14A of the Convention;

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[1]   These include the least developed countries, small island developing states, landlocked developing countries and countries with economies in transition.

e)   that No. 242 of the Convention requires the World Telecommunication Standardization Assembly (WTSA) to appoint chairmen and vice-chairmen of study groups, taking account of competence and equitable geographical distribution, and the need to promote more efficient participation by the developing countries;

f)   that 1.10 of Section 1 of Resolution 1 (Rev. Hammamet, 2016) of this assembly indicates that WTSA shall appoint the chairmen and vice-chairmen of study groups and of TSAG;

g)   that Section 3 of Resolution 1 (Rev. Hammamet, 2016) of this assembly contains guidelines regarding the appointment of study group chairmen and vice-chairmen at WTSAs;

h)   that procedures and qualifications for the chairman and vice-chairmen of TSAG should generally follow those for the appointment of study group chairman and vice-chairmen;

i)   that experience of ITU in general, and of ITU-T in particular, would be of particular value for the chairman and vice-chairmen of TSAG;

j)   that No. 244 of the Convention describes the procedure for replacing a study group chairman or vice-chairman who is unable to carry out his or her duties at some time in the interval between two WTSAs;

k)   that No. 197G of the Convention states that TSAG shall "adopt its own working procedures compatible with those adopted by the world telecommunication standardization assembly";

l)   that a specific time-limit on the term of office would permit the introduction of new ideas on a periodic basis, while at the same time give an opportunity for study group chairmen and vice-chairmen and the chairman and vice-chairmen of TSAG to be appointed from different Member States and Sector Members,

pursuant to

a)   Resolution 166 (Rev. Busan, 2014) of the Plenipotentiary Conference, on the number of vice-chairmen of Sector advisory groups, study groups and other groups;

b)   Resolution 70 (Rev. Busan, 2014) of the Plenipotentiary Conference, on mainstreaming a gender perspective in ITU and promotion of gender equality and the empowerment of women through information and communication technologies,

noting

a)   Article 19 of the Convention, on the participation of entities and organizations in the Union's activities;

b)   Resolution 58 (Rev. Busan, 2014) of the Plenipotentiary Conference, on strengthening of relations between ITU and regional telecommunication organizations and regional preparations for the Plenipotentiary Conference, in particular *resolves* 2 thereof;

c)   Resolution 43 (Rev. Dubai, 2012) of WTSA, on regional preparations for WTSAs,

taking into account

a)   that a maximum time in office of two terms for study group and TSAG chairmen and vice-chairmen provides for a reasonable amount of stability while providing the opportunity for different individuals to serve in these capacities;

b)   that the management team of TSAG and a study group should include at least the chairman, vice-chairmen and subordinate group chairmen;

c)   the convenience of nominating by consensus up to two candidates per region as vice-chairmen of the advisory group;

d)   the value of prior experience of the nominee at least as rapporteur, associate rapporteur or editor in the respective study groups,

resolves

1   that candidates for the posts of chairmen and vice-chairmen of the ITU-T study groups and candidates for the posts of chairman and vice-chairmen of TSAG should be appointed according to the procedures given in Annex A, the qualifications given in Annex B and the guidelines given in Annex C to this resolution and *resolves* 2 of Resolution 58 (Rev. Busan, 2014);

2   that candidates for the posts of study group chairmen and vice-chairmen and candidates for the posts of chairman and vice-chairmen of TSAG should be identified, taking into account that, for each study group and for TSAG, WTSA will appoint the chairman and only the number of vice-chairmen deemed necessary for the efficient and effective management and functioning of the group in question, applying the guidelines given in Annex C;

3   that nominations for the posts of study group chairmen and vice-chairmen or for the posts of chairman and vice-chairmen of TSAG should be accompanied by a biographical profile highlighting the qualifications of the individuals proposed, taking into careful consideration continuity in participation in ITU-T study groups or TSAG, and that the Director of the Telecommunication Standardization Bureau will circulate the profiles to the heads of delegation present at WTSA;

4   that the term of office for both chairmen and vice-chairmen should not exceed two terms of office between consecutive assemblies;

5   that the term of office in one appointment (e.g. as a vice-chairman) does not count towards the term of office for another appointment (e.g. as a chairman) and that steps should be taken to provide some continuity between chairmen and vice-chairmen;

6   that the interval between assemblies during which a chairman or vice-chairman is elected under No. 244 of the Convention does not count towards the term of office,

resolves further

1   that vice-chairmen of TSAG and study groups should be encouraged to assume the leadership role of activities in order to ensure equitable distribution of tasks and to achieve greater involvement by the vice-chairmen in the management and work of TSAG and the study groups;

2   that the appointment of vice-chairmen of study groups should be limited to three candidates from each region, taking into account Resolution 70 (Rev. Busan, 2014) and *resolves* 2 of Resolution 58 (Rev. Busan, 2014), to ensure equitable geographical distribution among the ITU regions so as to ensure that every region is represented by not more than three competent and qualified candidates,

invites Member States and Sector Members

1   to support their successful candidates for such posts in ITU-T, and support and facilitate their task during their term of office;

2   to promote the nomination of women candidates for the posts of chairmen and vice-chairmen of the ITU-T study groups and for the posts of chairman and vice-chairmen of TSAG.

ANNEX A
(to Resolution 35 (Rev. Hammamet, 2016))

Procedure for the appointment of chairmen and vice-chairmen of the ITU-T study groups and of TSAG

1   Typically, the positions of chairmen and vice-chairmen to be filled are known in advance of WTSA.

a)   In order to help WTSA appoint chairmen/vice-chairmen, Member States and ITU-T Sector Members are encouraged to indicate to the Director of TSB suitable candidates, preferably three months, but no later than two weeks, before the opening of WTSA.

b)   In nominating suitable candidates, ITU-T Sector Members should carry out prior consultations with the administration/Member State concerned, in order to avoid any possible disagreement in regard to such nomination.

c)   On the basis of received proposals, the Director of TSB will circulate to Member States and Sector Members the list of candidates. The list of candidates should be accompanied by an indication of the qualifications of each candidate as given in Annex B to this resolution.

d)   On the basis of this document and any relevant received comments, the heads of delegation, at a suitable time during WTSA, should be invited to prepare, in consultation with the Director of TSB, a consolidated list of designated study group chairmen and vice-chairmen to be submitted in a document to WTSA for final approval.

e)   In drafting the consolidated list, the following should be taken into account: In cases where there are two or more candidates with equal competence for the same chairman position, preference should be given to candidates from Member States and Sector Members having the lowest number of designated study group and TSAG chairmen.

2   Situations which cannot be considered within the above will be dealt with on a case-by-case basis at WTSA.

For example, if a merger of two existing study groups is envisaged, the proposals pertaining to the relevant study groups can be considered. Therefore the procedure outlined in § 1 can still be applied.

However, if WTSA decides to set up a completely new study group, discussions will have to be held at WTSA and appointments made.

3   These procedures should be applied for appointments made by TSAG under delegated authority (see Resolution 22 (Rev. Hammamet, 2016) of this assembly).

4   Vacant positions of chairmen and vice-chairmen that occur in mid-term between WTSAs are filled in accordance with No. 244 of the Convention.

ANNEX B
(to Resolution 35 (Rev. Hammamet, 2016))

Qualifications of chairmen and vice-chairmen

No. 242 of the Convention states that:

"… In appointing chairmen and vice-chairmen, particular consideration shall be given to the requirements of competence and equitable geographical distribution and to the need to promote more efficient participation by the developing countries."

Whilst giving primary consideration to the qualifications below, there should be an appropriate representation of chairmen and vice-chairmen from developing countries, including the least developed countries, small island developing states and countries with economies in transition.

As regards competence, the following qualifications, *inter alia*, appear to be of paramount importance when appointing chairmen and vice-chairmen:

–   relevant professional knowledge and experience;
–   continuity in participation in the relevant study group or, for chairmen and vice-chairmen of TSAG, in ITU-T;
–   managerial skills;
–   availability[2];
–   knowledge for standardization related activities.

Particular reference to the above qualifications should be included in the biographical profile to be circulated by the Director of TSB.

ANNEX C
(to Resolution 35 (Rev. Hammamet, 2016))

Guidelines for appointment of the optimum numbers of vice-chairmen for ITU-T study groups and for TSAG

1   Pursuant to Resolution 166 (Rev. Busan, 2014) and No. 242 of the Convention, the requirements of competence, equitable geographical distribution and the need to promote more effective participation by the developing countries should be taken into account[3] to the extent practicable.

2   To the extent possible, and taking into account the need for demonstrated competence, appointment or selection to the management team should utilize the resources of as broad a range of Member States and Sector Members as possible, at the same time recognizing the need to appoint only the number of vice-chairmen necessary for the efficient and effective management and functioning of the study groups, consistent with the projected structure and work programme.

3   The workload should be a factor in determining the appropriate number of vice-chairmen to ensure that every aspect within the purview of TSAG and the study groups is fully managed. The distribution of tasks among the vice-chairmen shall be made in the framework of each study group and TSAG, and may be modified according to the needs of the work.

4   The total number of vice-chairmen proposed by any administration should be fairly reasonable, so as to observe the principle of equitable distribution of posts among the Member States concerned.

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[2]   A further factor to be considered when appointing chairmen and vice-chairmen to both study groups and TSAG is candidates' availability for the period up to the next WTSA.

[3]   For those regions consisting of numerous administrations and with diverse economic and technological developments within the region, to the extent possible the number of representatives of those regions may be increased, as appropriate.

5   Regional representation[4] in the advisory group, study groups and other groups of all three Sectors should be taken into account, such that no single individual may hold more than one vice-chairmanship position in these groups in any one Sector, and only in exceptional cases hold such a position in more than one Sector[5].

6   Where the re-election of vice-chairmen is concerned, the nomination of candidates who have failed to participate in at least half of all meetings during the previous study period should normally be avoided, taking into account prevailing circumstances.

Resolution 45 (Rev. Hammamet, 2016) -Effective coordination of standardization work across study groups in the ITU Telecommunication Standardization Sector and the role of the ITU Telecommunication Standardization Advisory Group

The World Telecommunication Standardization Assembly (Hammamet, 2016),

noting

a)   that the ITU Telecommunication Standardization Sector (ITU-T) is the pre-eminent global standardization body, comprising administrations, equipment vendors, operators and regulators;

b)   that, under Article 17 of the ITU Constitution, ITU-T, bearing in mind the particular concerns of the developing countries[1], shall fulfil the purposes of the Union by studying technical, operating and tariff questions and adopting Recommendations on them with a view to standardizing telecommunications on a worldwide basis;

c)   that, under Article 13 of the ITU Convention, the World Telecommunication Standardization Assembly (WTSA) is required, *inter alia*, to approve the programme of work for ITU-T for each study period and to determine the priority, urgency, estimated financial implications and time-scale for the completion of studies,

considering

a)   Resolution 122 (Rev. Guadalajara, 2010) of the Plenipotentiary Conference, which resolves that WTSA shall adequately address strategic issues in standardization, and encourages Member States, ITU-T Sector Members and study group chairmen and vice-chairmen to concentrate, *inter alia*, on the identification and analysis of strategic issues in standardization in their preparations for WTSA so as to facilitate the work of the assembly;

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[4] Taking into account Resolution 58 (Rev. Busan, 2014) of the Plenipotentiary Conference in regard to the six regional telecommunication organizations, namely: the Asia-Pacific Telecommunity (APT), the European Conference of Postal and Telecommunications Administrations (CEPT), the Inter-American Telecommunications Commission (CITEL), the African Telecommunications Union (ATU), the Council of Arab Ministers of Telecommunication and Information represented by the Secretariat-General of the League of Arab States (LAS), and the Regional Commonwealth in the field of Communications (RCC).

[5] The criterion mentioned in this paragraph should not prevent a vice-chairman of a given advisory group or a vice-chairman of a given study group from holding positions of chairman or vice-chairman of a given working party or as rapporteur or associate rapporteur for any group under the mandate of that Sector group.

[1] These include the least developed countries, small island developing states, landlocked developing countries and countries with economies in transition.

b)   that the interests of developing countries are promoted by ensuring a coordinated approach to standardization where strategic standardization issues are concerned;

c)   that WTSA has agreed to a new ITU-T study group structure and improvements to ITU-T's working methods that will assist ITU-T in meeting the standardization challenges of the 2013-2016 study period,

recognizing

a)   that effective coordination between study groups is critical to ITU-T's ability to meet emerging standardization challenges and the needs of its membership;

b)   that ITU-T study groups are responsible for developing Recommendations on technical, operating and tariff questions on the basis of contributions submitted by the membership;

c)   that the effective coordination of standardization activities would assist in meeting the objectives of Resolution 122 (Rev. Guadalajara, 2010) and Resolution 123 (Rev. Busan, 2014) of the Plenipotentiary Conference;

d)   that operational coordination can be effected by means of joint coordination activities (JCA), joint rapporteur group meetings, liaison statements between study groups and the study group chairmen's meetings organized by the Director of the Telecommunication Standardization Bureau;

e)   that effective coordination is facilitated by taking a top-down approach to the coordination of work between study groups, including the identification of linkages between related work items;

f)   that the Telecommunication Standardization Advisory Group (TSAG) can play an important role in ensuring cross-study group coordination on standardization issues, including the measurement of standardization progress against agreed milestones;

g)   that it is appropriate for WTSA, as the highest body in ITU-T, to identify strategic standardization issues for each study period,

bearing in mind

that the coordination of standardization activities is particularly important for high-priority standardization issues, including, for example:

a)   next-generation networks (NGN) evolution and future networks (FN);

b)   security (including cybersecurity);

c)   telecommunications for disaster relief systems, including network resilience and recovery;

d)   smart grid and home networking;

e)   intelligent transport systems (ITS);

f)   Internet of things (IoT)/machine-to-machine (M2M) communication;

g)   cloud computing;

h)   Internet-related issues;

i)   conformance and interoperability (C&I) testing,

emphasizing

that coordination should serve to improve the effectiveness of ITU-T activities and should not limit the authority of each study group to develop Recommendations based on contributions from the membership,

resolves

that the coordination of ITU-T activities in regard to high-priority standardization issues and work related to more than one study group should ensure:

i)   the identification of high-level objectives and priorities for ITU-T studies from a global viewpoint;

ii)   cooperation between study groups, including the avoidance of duplication of work and the identification of linkages between related work items;

iii)   the planned coordination of time-frames, deliverables, objectives and milestones for standardization activities;

iv)   that the interests of developing countries are taken into account and that their involvement in these activities is encouraged and facilitated;

v)   cooperation and coordination with the ITU Radiocommunication and Telecommunication Development Sectors and with other, external, standardization bodies,

instructs the Telecommunication Standardization Advisory Group

1   to take an active role in ensuring coordination among study groups, particularly on high-priority standardization issues that are being studied in more than one study group, including:

i)   to consider the work of any JCAs, and also recommend the establishment of such activities, if appropriate, and to invite coordination groups to hold the necessary meetings to achieve the objectives set for them;

ii)   to identify requirements and provide determination on appropriate changes to be made where overlapping issues arise, which includes, but is not limited to, assignment of a mandate to a study group to lead on coordination work;

iii)   to advise on further improvements to working methods of the joint coordination activities;

2   to take into account, and implement as necessary, advice given to TSAG by other groups established in the interests of effective coordination on high-priority and joint standardization topics.

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