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| **Abstract:** | This document provides the draft report of JCA-AHF meeting (Geneva, 10 October 2019). |

Related links

* [JCA-AHF webpage](https://www.itu.int/en/ITU-T/jca/ahf/Pages/default.aspx)
* [Meeting documents page](https://www.itu.int/en/ITU-T/jca/ahf/Pages/201910-docs.aspx)

# Opening of the meeting

The JCA-AHF meeting was held at 9:30 - 12:30 on 10 October 2019, chaired by Ms Andrea Saks (USA), JCA-AHF Chairman. The JCA-AHF meeting was collocated with SG16 meeting (7 - 17 October 2019). JCA-AHF Chairman emphasized that the scope of JCA-AHF: Coordination of accessibility activities conducted in all ITU Sectors, and communicate also with organizations outside ITU.

# Approval of the agenda

The Chairman introduced the draft JCA-AHF meeting agenda and document allocation as contained in JCA-AHF [Document 380](https://www.itu.int/en/ITU-T/jca/ahf/Documents/docs-2019/October2019/JCA_AHF-Doc380-agenda.docx). It was approved by the JCA-AHF with some changes in the order of presentations to meet the requests from certain presenters.

# Approval of the last JCA-AHF meeting report

The Chairman introduced the last JCA-AHF meeting (11 June 2019) report (JCA-AHF [Document 371](https://www.itu.int/en/ITU-T/jca/ahf/Documents/docs-2019/June2019/JCA-AHF%20Doc371-report.docx)), and the report was approved by the JCA-AHF.

# Recent ITU accessibility activities

## Pilot project on audio-navigation system at ITU

The JCA-AHF Chairman presented JCA-AHF [Document 374](https://www.itu.int/en/ITU-T/jca/ahf/Documents/docs-2019/October2019/JCA-AHF%20Doc374.docx) on her statement at ITU-T TSAG. She highlighted her comment at TSAG on ITU’s pilot project on audio-navigation system at ITU headquarters premises, as Wayfindr, the contributor for [ITU-T F.921](https://www.itu.int/rec/T-REC-F.921-201808-I) “Audio-based network navigation system for persons with vision impairment” was not selected for this pilot project.

Mr Peter Ransome, Facilities management Division of ITU General Secretariat explained the background of this pilot project on audio-navigation system, from the viewpoint of procurement and technical specification. As the ITU’s security system has been changed, and now there are turnstiles at the ITU entrances, this pilot audio-based navigation system was addressed to get persons with disabilities through the security system to the inside of the buildings. As the project had a little spare money, it was decided to start by providing some guidance on some key routes inside the ITU buildings. Due to the limited financial resources, as part of the security access project, it was decided to add the Audio Spot’s features to the project. The pilot project was conducted on a temporarily basis, within the limited resources (financial and human) that the division has, in order to provide minimum accessibility for blind users of ITU HQ premises. JCA-AHF noted the presentation.

## ICT Accessibility Day at WSIS Forum 2019 and 2020

Mr Vladimir Stankovic from General Secretariat of ITU presented JCA-AHF [Document 379](https://www.itu.int/en/ITU-T/jca/ahf/Documents/docs-2019/October2019/JCA-AHF-Doc379.docx) on WSIS Forum 2020, and highlighted the continuous joint effort on ICT Accessibility Day, and an accessibility group which would be created as a response to the WSIS stakeholder requests. The WSIS Forum 2020 was originally scheduled for 30th of March -3rd of April 2020, but it is now changed to 6th – 9th of April 2020. Any proposals should be officially submitted through the WSIS Forum 2020 website by 3rd of February 2020.

Mr Erich Kofmel from Autistic Minority International commented remotely by text. The WSIS Forum 2020 will not coincide with World Autism Awareness Day on 2nd of April 2020 due to the change of the date. So Autistic Minority International may not proceed with their proposal to have a workshop session. Mr Stankovic explained the reason of the date change, and he suggested to explore how to promote the 2nd April via WSIS social media. Mr Stankovic also encouraged Autistic Minority International to still have a session at WSIS Forum 2020, to present the outcomes of the World Autism Awareness Day.

## Accessibility work at ITU-T SG20

Mr Yong Jick Lee from CAICT Korea presented JCA-AHF [Document 356](https://www.itu.int/en/ITU-T/jca/ahf/Documents/docs-2019/June2019/JCA-AHF-Doc356.zip) on Liaison Statement from SG20 on accessibility matters. The LS informed JCA-AHF of the updates of draft Y.ACC-PTS “Accessibility requirements for smart public transportation services”. UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (UNCRPD) addresses mobility for persons with disabilities and specific needs (Article 20), and it also mentions the use of assistive devices and technologies (Article 26). While the current concept of accessibility in public transportation services has been mainly concerned with eliminating physical barriers, the Internet of Things can be used to create tools for persons with many types of disabilities and specific needs, including physical, visual, hearing and cognitive disabilities. In clause 7, functional areas of accessible public transportation services were studied to identify accessibility requirements to reduce barriers to persons with disabilities when they use public transportation.

Ms Lidia Best, Vice-President of European Federation of Hard of Hearing People (EFHOH), commented that European Directives require the accessibility to information, so public transport has text information on next steps, however, other information, such as information on unexpected situation is not often available in the form of text. She questioned whether such text information can be included in the main accessibility services, in addition to via smart phones. This comment was followed by Mr David Forney from G3ict. Mr Forney explained his experience on public transport in Canada and in South Korea, and he questioned on how information on unforeseen circumstances in addition to basic information such as names of next stops could be accessible for persons with hearing disabilities. Mr Lee said his team would capture this concern when they develop the draft Recommendation.

## Accessible Europe, 4-6 December 2019, Malta

Mr Julian McNeill, ITU Regional Office for Europe presented JCA-AHF [Document 378](https://www.itu.int/en/ITU-T/jca/ahf/Documents/docs-2019/October2019/JCA-AHF-Doc378.docx) on ITU-European Commission Co-organized Forum on “Accessible Europe: ICT 4 ALL”. The Forum will be held on 4th – 6th of December in St George's Bay, Malta, co-organized by ITU and the European Commission and will be hosted by the Parliamentary secretariat for Persons with Disability & Active Aging (PSDAA) of the Government of Malta. This Accessible Europe Forum is organized within the framework of the regional initiative for Europe on accessibility as adopted by WTDC17. On the first two days, there will be eleven sessions on variety of topics ranging from artificial intelligence, education, telecom relay services to audiovisual media services. The draft agenda is available at the [event website](https://www.itu.int/en/ITU-D/Regional-Presence/Europe/Pages/Events/2019/AE/AccessibleEurope.aspx). The [Background Papers](https://www.itu.int/en/ITU-D/Regional-Presence/Europe/Pages/Events/2019/AE/Background-Papers-Accessible-Europe.aspx) on three specific topics have been developed and are available: artificial intelligence, universal design standards & public procurement, and audiovisual media services. A competition is an integral part of the event to seek to attract innovative digital solutions addressing the needs of persons with disabilities and specific needs. There will be the possibility to submit written contributions to be published on the event website and also an exhibition, and also be the exhibition to showcase solutions.

# Reports and Discussion contributed by JCA-AHF members

## CEN/CENELEC/ETSI initial work on: Smart and Sustainable Cities and Communities

Mr Copsey introduced JCA-AHF [Document 382](https://www.itu.int/en/ITU-T/jca/ahf/Documents/docs-2019/October2019/JCA-AHF-Doc382.zip) on CEN/CENELEC/ETSI initial work on: Smart and Sustainable Cities and Communities, to bring the attention of the JCA-AHF members of the work. As the work on Smart Cities is done by ITU-T SG20, the information should be delivered to SG20. While the proper way is for ETSI to send a Liaison Statement to SG20, the JCA-AHF Chairman agreed to send a Liaison Statement to SG20 for information, copying Q26/16. (Post meeting note: the LS was sent to SG20 as [JCA-AHF-L51](https://www.itu.int/net/itu-t/ls/ls.aspx?isn=22427))

## Updates on spectrum use in Europe

Mr Copsey introduced JCA-AHF [Document 383](https://www.itu.int/en/ITU-T/jca/ahf/Documents/docs-2019/October2019/JCA-AHF-Doc383.zip) on Updates on spectrum use in Europe. According to Mr Copsey, the European Commission (EC) is looking to place cochlear implants (CI) under the Radio Equipment Directive (RED), as the EC has decided to change a lower frequency limit in RED from 9 kHz to 0. This would result in pointless testing of CI to multiple standards, which would lead to increased cost of CI. Mr Copsey concluded that CI should not be included in the directive, and his team was working on this. Mr Copsey also explained the issue of legal use of spectrum by T-Coil which is now a radio device following the above removal of the lower frequency limit. Mr Copsey didn’t go through the updates of WPT Testing Summary of Result for T-Coil (JCA-AHF [Document 384](https://www.itu.int/en/ITU-T/jca/ahf/Documents/docs-2019/October2019/JCA-AHF-Doc384.zip), this is the updates of JCA-AHF [Document 364](https://www.itu.int/en/ITU-T/jca/ahf/Documents/docs-2019/June2019/JCA-AHF-Doc364.zip) presented at the previous JCA-AHF meeting).

Ms Best commented that for the issue of CI, it would be important to work with the consumer association related to the European standards. She also commented that for the T-coil issue, her group was trying to have a meeting with EC to get this issue resolved.

## UN Disability Strategy

Ms Best firstly presented JCA-AHF [Document 375](https://www.itu.int/en/ITU-T/jca/ahf/Documents/docs-2019/October2019/JCA-AHF%20Doc375.docx) on [UN Disability Inclusion Strategy](https://www.un.org/en/content/disabilitystrategy/) which has been launched to enable the UN system to support the implementation of the UN CRPD and other international human rights instruments. No further discussion on this topic was made due to the lack of time.

## European updates on accessibility policies

Ms Best then presented JCA-AHF [Document 377](https://www.itu.int/en/ITU-T/jca/ahf/Documents/docs-2019/October2019/JCA-AHF-Doc377.docx) on European updates on accessibility policies. In this presentation, she provided updates of the [European accessibility act](https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/?uri=COM%3A2015%3A0615%3AFIN), the [European Electronic Communication Code](https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/ALL/?uri=comnat%3ACOM_2016_0590_FIN), the new [European disability Strategy](https://ec.europa.eu/info/law/better-regulation/initiatives/ares-2018-4958882/public-consultation?fbclid=IwAR2ukDEwSpEygahg0VnmiCnifGc__kKvFPL0HMEgwbE-G_m5N1n5goX7vxw), and UK’s personalised SIM card [service](https://www.audacious.co.uk/) based on individual’s hearing profile. JCA-AHF noted the presentation.

## Report on accessibility from Mongolia

Ms Oyuntugs Bayaraa presented JCA-AHF [Document 385](https://www.itu.int/en/ITU-T/jca/ahf/Documents/docs-2019/October2019/JCA-AHF-Doc385.docx) titled “ICTs are a Power”. She briefly introduced circumstances surrounding disability in Mongolia, covering issues related to employment, education, ICTs, public facilities, infrastructure, and medical services. Ms Bayaraa highlighted that there were no centers to support persons with disabilities, and services such as audio navigation system and telecom relay services would be important.

The JCA-AHF Chairman commented that she would figure out possible way forward for Ms Bayaraa’s requests.

Mr Erich Kofmel from Autistic Minority International commented remotely by typing, to Ms Bayaraa’s mention about the lack of centers for autistic children. According to Mr Kofmel, autistic people oppose compliance-based behavioural therapies such as applied behaviour analysis, ABA, that are often experienced by autistic people akin to torture, and that it is thus important that parents build a genuine relationship with their autistic child and engage with the child on the child’s terms rather than expecting the child to normalize.

# Future events related to accessibility

The following upcoming events related to accessibility were mentioned:

* ITU-D Study Group 2 Rapporteur Group meetings, Geneva, 7 - 18 October 2019
* [MoU/MG webinar on e-accessibility for e-business](https://www.itu.int/en/ITU-T/ebusiness/Pages/mou/webinar-on-e-accessibility-for-e-business.aspx), 21 October 2019
* [Internet Governance Forum (IGF)](http://www.intgovforum.org/multilingual/) , Berlin, Germany, 25-29 November 2019

Mr Kawamori suggested that JCA-AHF Chairman invite members of IGF Dynamic Coalition on Accessibility and Disability (DCAD, Coordinator: Ms Andrea Saks) to participate in JCA-AHF. JCA-AHF Chairman took note of this.

# Any Other Business

Mr Olaf Mittelstaedt from Daisy Consortium of India presented orally on the work being done his organization. In India, there are 50 million blind people and 100 million people with visual disabilities. Daisy India has 26,000 customers on their online library, and has developed text to speech engines for 16 different Indian languages. JCA-AHF noted this presentation.

# Closing of the meeting

The Chairman closed the meeting, thanking the meeting participants, the interpreters, the caption writer and ITU staff for their support.

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