Accessibility considerations in ITU recommendations concerning NGN and future networks

Standardization can be a powerful tool for strengthening the aspects of accessibility by setting worldwide standards for accessible devices, products and services. The objective of this presentation is to describe and explore how the needs (on an effective participation in telecommunication services) of persons with hearing, sensory or aging disabilities are considered in the ITU-T recommendations on Next Generation Networks (NGN), which are developed by ITU-T Study Group 13.

After introduction of some important definitions and terms related to accessibility and NGN an overveiw on the intention and the content of the acessibility checklist is given. Considering different examples of applications/ use cases for Next Generation Networks (for example video call or IPTV broadcast) the specific aspects concerning the support of sensory disabled people are pointed out (including also mobile scenarios where the concerned person is not using fixed network access but is moving between different types of NGN accesspoints). Examining the given set of recommendations on NGN (inlcuding also draft recommendations where appropriate), which have been developed and still are under development by ITU-T SG13, examples of the consideration of ITU-T accessibility checklist requirements concerning the standardization of Next Generation Networks are given. The presentation will end with some outlook on the remaining demand for acceesibility in future networks.