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| **Telecommunication Development Advisory Group (TDAG)**  |  |
| **Correspondence Group on Streamlining WTDC Resolutions and Recommendations (CG-SR), Geneva, 25 January 2017** |
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|  | **Document TDAG/CG-SR/16-E** |
| **22 February 2017** |
| **English only** |
| Chairman, TDAG Correspondence Group on Streamlining WTDC Resolutions |
| REPORT OF THE THIRD MEETING OF THE TDAG CORRESPONDENCE GROUP ON STREAMLINING WTDC RESOLUTIONS |

## Opening remarks and approval of the agenda

The Correspondence Group on Streamlining Resolutions (CG-SR) held his third meeting on 25 January 2017 under the chairmanship of Dr Ahmad Reza Sharafat, Vice-Chairman of TDAG and Chairman of CG-SR.

The BDT Director, Mr Brahima Sanou, provided an opening address emphasizing on the importance of the work of this Correspondence Group towards streamlining resolutions of the World Telecommunication Development Conference (WTDC). He reiterated that the resolutions are key instruments for ITU Membership to forge priorities and lead the work of the Telecommunication Development Bureau (BDT). He called upon Members, nevertheless, to consider where the various issues would be best addressed, be it in Resolutions, the Operational Plan or the Strategic plan, or in the WTDC Declaration.

The BDT Director reminded that the Regional Preparatory Meetings (RPMs) organized by ITU are gatherings where countries have the opportunity to discuss salient issues and develop common proposals, in particular with regards to WTDC resolutions. By channelling the work on streamlining resolutions through RPMs and the dedicated meetings of CG-SR in the lead to WTDC-17, more time will be available at the conference to debate on the substance, enhance proposals and conciliate views. Mr Sanou also reiterated BDT’s commitment to result-based management principles, noting that fewer and more action-oriented resolutions would lead to more meaningful results. He further invited participants to continue reflecting on the guiding principles for streamlining resolutions prepared by CG-SR.

The BDT Director thanked Dr Sharafat for his commitment and leadership, and extended a thanks to all Members who have contributed to the process.

The Chair, Dr Sharafat, welcomed participants and thanked them for their contribution to the work of the Correspondence Group. He explained that the objective of that meeting was to inform the ITU Membership about the status of the work on streamlining resolutions since the last meeting and have a discussion on the way forward. He reminded that, currently, there are 62 resolutions and 7 recommendations of WTDC and probably more are going to be adopted at the forthcoming conference. While he recognized the sovereign right of Members to submit new resolutions and revise existing ones, he called for taking advantage of the work of CG-SR to make the most of existing resolutions and consider where new issues belong. He recalled that the task of CG-SR is to improve, optimize and streamline existing ones, except for Resolutions 1 and 2 which are being studies by the TDAG CG on Resolution 1. As resolutions take up a considerable amount of time at WTDC, it is important to advance the preparatory work in order to ensure quality of outcomes and that resolutions fit best with Member’s priorities.

Dr Sharafat also encouraged countries to work within their regions on elaborating concrete proposals and developing common positions on the topic of streamlining resolutions.

The Agenda of the meeting contained in Document [TDAG/CG-SR/13(Rev.1)](https://www.itu.int/md/D14-TDAG21.CG.SRES-C-0013/en) was adopted without modification.

## Review main conclusions of the second meeting of TRAG CG-SR

The Chair, Dr Sharafat, gave the floor to Mr Kemal Huseinovic, Chief, IEE to present the report of the second meeting of CG-SR in September 2016 contained in Document [TDAG/CG-SR/12](https://www.itu.int/md/D14-TDAG21.CG.SRES-C-0012/en) (Chairman, CG-SR). No further comments were received from participants and the report was adopted.

## Presentation of the discussions regarding streamlining resolutions at RPMs CIS and Africa

The Chair, Dr Sharafat, gave the floor to Mr Huseinovic, Chief, IEE to provide a briefing on the RPMs CIS and Africa with regards to streamlining resolutions.

RPMs CIS and AFR welcomed the summary document on the work of TDAG CG-SR and took note of it. No specific points were brought up.

Several proposals for revising existing WTDC resolutions were received and discussed. RPM-CIS supported the contributions presented and agreed to prepare on this basis an RCC common proposal to WTDC‑17.

With regards to streamlining WTDC resolutions, the following proposals were put forward at RPM-CIS:

* [Document 24:](http://www.itu.int/md/D14-RPMCIS-C-0024/en) The document, entitled ***Proposed aggregation of Resolutions 17 and 32***
* [Document 13:](http://www.itu.int/md/D14-RPMCIS-C-0013/en) The document, entitled ***Proposed modifications to Resolution 32***
* [Document 25:](http://www.itu.int/md/D14-RPMCIS-C-0025/en) The document, entitled ***Proposed aggregation of Resolutions 37 and 50***

Documents 24 and 25 were already presented and discussed during the Second meeting of TDAG CG-SR in September 2016.

RPM-CIS supported Documents 24 and 25 and agreed to prepare on this basis an RCC common proposal to WTDC‑17. Document 13, the suggested modifications of which had already been included in Document 24, will not be submitted to WTDC-17.

No concrete proposals were contributed to or discussed at RPM-AFR.

## Presentation of the Draft guiding principles for streamlining WTDC resolutions

The Chair, Dr Sharafat, presented the Draft guiding principles for streamlining WTDC resolutions contained in Document [TDAG/CG-SR/14](https://www.itu.int/md/D14-TDAG21.CG.SRES-C-0014/en) (Chairman, TDAG CG-SR). Dr Sharafat described the Guiding principles as a useful tool for Members to help them prepare for WTDC-17 in a way that is more productive and more efficient. The Guiding principles are structured in two tracks – streamlining existing resolutions and drafting new ones; however the rationale behind is the same. Dr Sharafat stressed that streamlining aims at harmonization and improved efficiency of WTDC resolutions. Reducing the number of resolutions would also allow to reduce duplication with the BDT Operational Plan and Plenipotentiary Resolutions.

Dr Sharafat reiterated that the Guidelines are open for further modification and will evolve towards WTDC-17 as a non-binding set of rules that are useful to follow to ensure consistency across the body of resolutions. He also advised to submit new resolutions only when they are needed and the issues involved have not been addressed.

The representative of Italy thanked the Chairman for his presentation on the Guidelines and suggested to modify the term “ICT” in Section B to “telecommunications/ICT”. The revised version is available in Annex 1 here.

He also noted that the Guidelines do not include a reference to the cost implications of adopting new WTDC resolutions to ITU-D. The Chairman thanked him for the proposal.

## Discussion on the way forward

The revised guidelines are attached in Annex 1 here.

The fourth physical meeting of the group will take place on 3 April 2017 at 1 p.m. at the ITU headquarters in Geneva, Switzerland.

After the fourth meeting, the Chairman, Dr Sharafat, will submit his report on the work of CG-SR to the 22nd meeting of TDAG in May 2017. The Chairman invited therefore Members to submit their input and views on the work of CG-SR in due course so they can be taken into consideration. The report on the work of CG-SR will be submitted to TDAG and, once approved, will be sent to
WTDC-17.

The Chairman, Dr Sharafat, called upon Membership to take active part in ITU RPMs as well as in regionally-organized preparatory meetings to WTDC-17 in order to elaborate regional proposals for streamlining resolutions. Thus, discussions would be more advanced and mature at WTDC, allowing for better quality of the final outcome. He also invited any further input or refinement on the draft Guiding Principle.

The representative from Argentina took the opportunity to express their support to the process of streamlining resolutions and invited all ITU Members to Argentina for WTDC-17.

The Chairman, Dr Sharafat, aspired that the forthcoming development conference will be memorable and successful. He recalled that WTDC-17 will also mark the 25th anniversary of BDT.

He thanked participants and assured that work will continue making considerable progress on elaborating proposals for streamlining resolutions in the lead to the conference.

## Any other business

No further items have been discussed under this agenda item.

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| ANNEX 1 |

A. Guiding principles for streamlining existing WTDC Resolutions

The following guiding principles might prove useful in the work on streamlining Resolutions:

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| Principle | Questions |
| Coherence & Consistency | Is the Resolution consistent with the BDT mandate and the WTDC Action Plan? |
| Overlap & duplication | Is there an overlap or duplication with existing WTDC Resolutions or with the Action Plan? Are the goals of Resolutions already reflected in the ITU-D Strategic Plan objectives, programmes, regional initiatives (RIs), Study Group (SG) questions, or BDT working methods? |
| Necessity | Is the Resolution indispensable? Is there already another WTDC/Council/PP Resolution or Resolutions which address the same topic or action? Has the Resolution already been implemented? |
| Action-orientation & accountability | Does the Resolution call for a specific action or outcome? Is there a clear accountability line in the Resolution? What are the cost implications of the Resolution for ITU-D, in terms of implementation budget and related costs? |

In general, streamlining existing Resolutions is preferable to adding a new Resolution.

When the actions or activities put forward in a Resolution have been implemented or accomplished, the Resolution can be viewed as fulfilled and removed.

Editorial revisions of adopted Resolutions should be kept to the minimum or to what is strictly necessary for its efficient implementation.

If only editorial updates are required to a WTDC Resolution, the need to produce a revised version should be questioned.

#### B. Guidelines for drafting new WTDC Resolutions

New Resolutions are intended to define working methodsoraddress issues which are demonstrably new and of highest importance for ITU-D, and which have not been considered in existing WTDC documents or internationally-agreed development agendas.

Concretely:

* New proposed Resolutions should be aligned and harmonized with existing ones;
* New proposed Resolutions should involve a distinct new subject within the scope of BDT or an issue that represents a significant new or unaddressed challenge related to telecommunications/ICT development or public policy;
* New proposed Resolutions should normally not involve a subject already covered in the WTDC Action Plan and the Operational Plan;
* If an existing Plenipotentiary Conference (PP) Resolution identifies a priority issue, the need for a similar WTDC Resolution should be carefully considered;
* The need for a new WTDC Resolution should be carefully examined if a new proposed Resolutions involves subjects already covered by internationally-agreed development goals, such as the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and the goals of the World Summit on the Information Society (WSIS), as those are also already established as reporting lines;
* New proposed Resolution should specify an expected result(s) or outcome(s) so that its implementation can be measured, in line with result-based management principles. It should likewise specify an appropriate reporting mechanism;
* New proposed Resolutions should be backed by more than one Member State Administrations.

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