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|  | | **Document** **CG-SR/****20-E** |
| **10 April 2017** |
| **English only** |
| Chairman, TDAG Correspondence Group on Streamlining WTDC Resolutions (CG-SR) | | |
| REPORT OF THE FOURTH MEETING OF THE TDAG CORRESPONDENCE GROUP  ON STREAMLINING WTDC RESOLUTIONS | | |
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| **Summary:**  This document contains the report prepared by the Chairman of the Fourth Meeting of the TDAG Correspondence Group on Streamlining WTDC Resolutions (CG-SR).  **Action required:**  The report is submitted to the attention of all participants to the meeting.  **References:**  N/A | | |

## Opening remarks and approval of the agenda

The Correspondence Group on Streamlining Resolutions (CG-SR) held his fourth meeting on 3 April 2017 under the chairmanship of Dr Ahmad Reza Sharafat, Vice-Chairman of TDAG and Chairman of CG-SR.

The Chair, Dr Sharafat, welcomed participants and stressed the importance of the work of the Correspondence Group for reducing the number of WTDC Resolutions to the extent possible. He thanked the Membership for their involvement in the process and the contributions that have been put forward. He noted the positive trend towards engaging a greater number of Members in the discussions and an increased number of concrete proposals for streamlining resolutions. Dr Sharafat concluded that the outcome of the work of CG-SR is likely to prove useful for both the Membership and BDT.

The Agenda of the meeting contained in Document [TDAG/CG-SR/17(Rev.1)](https://www.itu.int/md/D14-TDAG21.CG.SRES-C-0017/en) was adopted without modification.

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

The Chair, Dr Sharafat, gave the floor to the BDT Secretariat to present the report of the third meeting of CG-SR in January 2017 contained in Document [TDAG/CG-SR/16](https://www.itu.int/md/D14-TDAG21.CG.SRES-C-0016/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

The Chair, Dr Sharafat, gave the floor to Mr Huseinovic, Chief, IEE to provide a briefing on the discussions regarding streamlining resolutions at the recent ITU Regional Preparatory Meetings (RPMs) for WTDC-17.

All RPMs (except the forthcoming RPM-Europe) welcomed the summary document on the work of TDAG CG-SR and took note of it.

Several concrete proposals for revising existing WTDC resolutions were received and discussed.

**At RPM-CIS:**

* [Document 24](http://www.itu.int/md/D14-RPMCIS-C-0024/en) entitled “*Proposed aggregation of Resolutions 17 and 32”*
* [Document 25](http://www.itu.int/md/D14-RPMCIS-C-0025/en) entitled “*Proposed aggregation of Resolutions 37 and 50”*

**At RPM-Americas:**

* [Document 17](https://www.itu.int/md/D14-RPMAMS-C-0017/en) entitled "*Preliminary considerations to reduce the number of Resolutions*"
* [Document 28](https://www.itu.int/md/D14-RPMAMS-C-0028/en) entitled "*Draft merger of Resolution 46 (Assistance and promotion for indigenous communities in the world: Information society through information and communication technology) and Resolution 68”*
* [Document 31](https://www.itu.int/md/D14-RPMAMS-C-0031/en) entitled "*Proposed deletion of Resolution 68, Assistance to Indigenous Peoples within the Activities of the Telecommunication Development Bureau in its related programmes*"
* [Document 29](https://www.itu.int/md/D14-RPMAMS-C-0029/en) entitled "*Draft merger of Resolution 50* (Optimal Integration of Information and Communication Technologies and Their Applications) *with Resolution 54”*
* [Document 30](https://www.itu.int/md/D14-RPMAMS-C-0030/en) entitled "*Draft elimination of Resolution 54*"

**At RPM-Asia-Pacific:**

* [Document 21](https://www.itu.int/md/D14-RPMASP-C-0021/en) entitled *“Proposal to streamline Resolution 37 and 50”*
* [Document 22](https://www.itu.int/md/D14-RPMASP-C-0022/en) entitled *“Proposal to streamline Resolution 17 and 32*".

The RPMs welcomed the documents and took note of the contributions. The general understanding was that if the two sets of resolutions are merged, important elements in those Resolutions should not be lost.

A detailed summary of the outcome of the discussions on streamlining WTDC Resolutions at past RPMs is contained in [Document INF/1](https://www.itu.int/md/D14-TDAG21.CG.SRES-INF-0001/).

RPM-Europe will be held in Vilnius, Lithuania on 27-28 April 2017.

## Presentation and discussion on relevant contributions

The representative of Paraguay (Republic of) put forward two contributions. Both were already submitted and discussed at the recent RPM-Americas. They will be further discussed further at the upcoming meeting of CITEL in view of the elaboration of a regional proposal.

Document[TDAG/CG-SR/18](https://www.itu.int/md/D14-TDAG21.CG.SRES-C-0018/en) is entitled “Draft merger of Resolution 46 “Assistance and promotion for indigenous communities in the world: information society through information and communication technology” and Resolution 68 “Assistance to indigenous peoples within the activities of the telecommunication development bureau in its related programmes”. The proposal is to merge those two resolutions in view of having a single reference Resolution for all matters related to indigenous people.

Document[TDAG/CG-SR/19](https://www.itu.int/md/D14-TDAG21.CG.SRES-C-0019/en) is entitled “Draft merger of Resolution 50 (rev. Dubai, 2014) "Optimal integration of information and communication technologies and their applications” and Resolution 54 (rev. Dubai, 2014) “information and communication technology applications". The proposal is to merge those two Resolutions in order to streamline the main topical references to ICT applications. This proposal is consistent with the earlier proposals of the Russian Federation (submitted to RPM-CIS) and Singapore (submitted to RPM-ASP) on merging Resolutions 37 and 50.

The meeting noted the documents and welcomed the contributions. Common regional proposals and joint regional proposals can greatly facilitate the work at the forthcoming WTDC and pave the way towards significantly reducing the number of Resolutions, both existing and new.

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

The Chairman, 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 explained 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. He stressed that the Guiding principles are intended as a useful tool for streamlining both existing and new resolutions.

Dr Sharafat walked the participants through the modifications made to the Guidelines at the third meeting of the Group. The delegate from Korea (Republic of) suggested further editorial revisions, which are reflected in the newly revised version of the Guidelines contained in Annex 1.

Dr Sharafat reiterated that the Guidelines have been discussed at all past RPMs and that they remain open for further modification in the lead up to WTDC-17. He stressed their status as a non-binding set of rules that are useful to follow to ensure consistency across the body of resolutions.

Dr Sharafat further noted the detailed mapping of current WTDC Resolutions and Recommendations to Plenipotentiary (PP) Resolutions, ITU-D objectives and ITU-D outcomes/outputs, with a view to streamlining them in preparation for WTDC-17 (Document [TDAG/CG-SR/6](https://www.itu.int/md/D14-TDAG21.CG.SRES-C-0006/en)). The mapping document also highlights common issues and themes in WTDC Resolutions and Recommendations and provides a framework for clustering them according to the Guidelines for streamlining WTDC resolutions.

## Discussion on the way forward

The forthcoming RPM-Europe will give the opportunity to Members from the region to hold further discussions on streamlining WTDC resolutions.

The last meeting of CG-SR will take place during the 22nd meeting of TDAG, on Wednesday, 10 May at 9.30 a.m. The exact duration of the meeting will be confirmed in due course.

The Chairman, Dr Sharafat, will submit his report on the work of CG-SR to TDAG in May 2017 and it will include all major outcomes of the work of CG-SR. The Chairman’s report will be discussed under Agenda item 10.h (*Preparations for WTDC-17: Streamlining WTDC Resolutions, including a report by the TDAG Correspondence Group on Streamlining WTDC Resolutions*). Once approved by TDAG, the report on the work of CG-SR will be sent to WTDC-17. In parallel, the various concrete contributions for merging resolutions will also be submitted to the Conference by the Member States sponsors of the proposals for streamlining.

The Chairman, Dr Sharafat, called upon Membership to continue working on concrete proposals for streamlining WTDC resolutions and discuss those at the various regional preparatory meetings for WTDC-17 which will be taking place in the coming months. Such concerted regional and intra-regional approach would ensure that discussions be more advanced and mature at WTDC, allowing for better quality of the final outcome and a reduced number of resolutions. He also reminded that further refinement on the draft Guiding Principles is welcome. He thanked participants and closed the meeting.

## Any other business

No further items have been discussed under this agenda item.

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| ANNEX 1  DRAFT GUIDING PRINCIPLES FOR STREAMLINING WTDC RESOLUTIONS |

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 and/or an issue that represents a significant new or unaddressed challenge related to telecommunication/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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