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|  | | **Document** **TDAG/CG-SR/****23-E** |
| **11 May 2017** |
| **English only** |
| Chairman, TDAG Correspondence Group on Steamlining WTDC Resolutions | | |
| REPORT OF THE FIFTH MEETING OF THE TDAG CORRESPONDENCE GROUP  ON STREAMLINING WTDC RESOLUTIONS | | |
|  | | |
| **Summary:**  **Action required:**  **References:** | | |

## Opening remarks and approval of the agenda

The Correspondence Group on Streamlining Resolutions (CG-SR) held its fifth meeting on 10 May 2017 under the chairmanship of Dr Ahmad Reza Sharafat, Vice-Chairman of TDAG and Chairman of CG-SR.

The Chairman, Dr Sharafat, welcomed participants and stressed the importance of the work of CG-SR for reducing the number of WTDC Resolutions. He thanked the Membership for their involvement in the process and recognized the contributions that have been put forward.

The Agenda of the meeting contained in Document [TDAG/CG-SR/22(Rev.2)](https://www.itu.int/md/D14-TDAG21.CG.SRES-C-0022/en) was adopted without modification.

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

The Chairman, Dr Sharafat, gave the floor to Mr Huseinovic, Chief, IEE to present the report of the fourth meeting of CG-SR in April 2017 contained in Document [TDAG/CG-SR/20](https://www.itu.int/md/D14-TDAG21.CG.SRES-C-0020/en) (Chairman, CG-SR). No further comments were received from participants and the report was adopted.

## Presentation of the draft final report of the Chairman, TDAG CG-SR

The draft final report of the Chairman of CG-SR is contained in Document [TDAG17-22/DT/8](https://www.itu.int/md/D14-TDAG22-170509-TD-0008/en). The document provides information on the work of the TDAG Correspondence Group on Streamlining WTDC Resolutions (CG-SR) since its creation and the way forward leading to the World Telecommunication Development Conference 2017 (WTDC-17). **Annex 1** contains the draft guiding principles for streamlining WTDC resolutions. **Annex 2** contains a consolidated text of regionally agreed proposals for streamlining WTDC resolutions. **Annex 3** contains 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. It also highlights common issues and themes in WTDC resolutions and recommendations and provides a framework for clustering them according to the draft guiding principles for streamlining WTDC resolutions. **Appendix 1** contains a consolidated table of all proposals submitted by Members to TDAG CG-SR and the regional preparatory meeting for WTDC-17 (RPMs) on streamlining WTDC resolutions.

The Chairman of CG-SR stressed that it is desirable to reduce the number of resolutions for the sake of creating efficiencies and optimizing budgetary resources. He also noted that additional efforts have been carried out at the regional level, in all regions, towards elaborating common regional proposal on streamlining resolutions. He clarified that those proposals are not reflected in his report as they are being carried out outside the framework of ITU RPMs.

No further comments were received to the draft final report of the Chairman of CG-SR. The final report to be presented to TDAG will be further revised to reflect the fifth meeting of CG-SR as well as take account of new contributions received.

## Presentation of the discussions regarding streamlining resolutions at RPMs

The Chairman, 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. The latest summary is available in section 3 of Document [TDAG17-22/DT/8](https://www.itu.int/md/D14-TDAG22-170509-TD-0008/en). The meeting welcomed the summary.

## Presentation of Member States contributions to the work on streamlining contributions

Document [TDAG17-22/70](https://www.itu.int/md/D14-TDAG22-C-0070/en) entitled **“*Proposal to merge Resolution 17 "Implementation of regionally approved initiatives at the national, regional Inter-regional and global levels" with Resolution 32*”** was introduced by the representative from Singapore through the remote facilitation facilities. It contains a proposal for merging WTDC Resolutions 17 and 32 to streamline references to the implementation of regional initiatives at the international and regional levels.

Document [TDAG17-22/71](https://www.itu.int/md/D14-TDAG22-C-0071/en) entitled **“*Proposal to merge Resolution 37 "Bridging the digital divide" and Resolution 50*”** was introduced by the representative from Singapore through the remote facilitation facilities. It contains a proposal for streamlining WTDC Resolutions 37 and 50 due to their common thematic focus on bridging the digital divide.

The Chairman of CG-SR noted that those two proposals were already discussed at RPM-Asia-Pacific. They could be sent to WTDC-17 as CG-SR is not tasked with developing common proposals.

The representative from Russian Fed. noted the proposals, also recalling the RCC regional proposals for streamlining resolutions 17 and 32 as well as resolutions 37 and 50, and informed the meeting that RCC would be happy to work with Singapore or the Asia-Pacific group to bring those closer together. The presenter from Singapore welcomed the approach. A representative from Sudan also stated that the Arab regional group supported merging those two resolutions.

The meeting noted the documents and welcomed the contributions. The Chairman of CG-SR stressed that common regional proposals and joint regional proposals can greatly facilitate the work at the forthcoming WTDC-17 and pave the way towards significantly reducing the number of resolutions, both existing and new.

A representative from INTEL suggested revising Resolution 43 “***Assistance for implementing IMT – International Mobile Telecommunications***” in order to reflect technological progress, especially with regards to IMT-2020 as well as the latest decisions of the World Radiocommunication Conference (WRC) and the World Telecommunication Standardization Assembly (WTSA). The meeting noted the contribution.

Several issues were raised in the discussions that followed.

* Delegates raised the issue of applying the draft guidelines developed by CG-SR to the proposals for streamlining resolutions. While some countries supported the idea, others thought it might be impractical and could go against the sovereign right of Member States to submit proposed resolutions as they see fit.
* A proposal was put forward to create drafting groups tasked with working on streamlining specific resolutions, allowing like-minded countries to come together and elaborate common proposals to be submitted to WTDC-17. The proposal was welcomed by a number of Administrations. Other representatives of Member States considered, nevertheless, that sufficient work is being done in regionally-led preparatory forums towards WTDC-17. Furthermore, the various regional groups have not yet finalized their regional proposals for streamlining and the two parallel processes might interfere and prove counterproductive. In a nutshell, those Member States representatives considered that any further discussions should take place either in regional groups or at WTDC-17. No consensus was reached on the topic of creating drafting groups.
* The Secretariat was requested to enhance the base-line document currently contained in Annex 3 of the draft final report of the Chairman of CG-SR with references to WTSA and WRC resolutions, to the extent possible also reflecting the level at which the issues have been addressed.

The Chairman of CG-SR took the opportunity to invite Member States to make an extensive use of the tools developed by CG-SR in their preparation for WTDC-17. The Chairman of CG-SR also encouraged regional groups to get in contact with other regions to start discussions and to find some compromise on concrete proposals in the lead to WTDC-17.

## 6. Other issues

The Chairman, Dr Sharafat, explained that this meeting of CG-SR was tasked by the TDAG Chairman to look into a number of documents partly related to WTDC resolutions.

### New resolution on establishing a joint ITU Coordination Committee for Vocabulary

[Document 34 (Rev.1)](https://www.itu.int/md/D14-TDAG22-C-0034/en): The document entitled **“*Proposal towards the establishment of a joint ITU Coordination Committee for Vocabulary*”** was introduced by the representative from Russian Fed. The document invites the ITU Council to establish a single body dealing with issues of vocabulary at ITU, based on the existing bodies in ITU-R and ITU-T. It also invites TDAG and WTDC to consider appointing an ITU-D representatives as Vice-Chairmen to the body in order to coordinate vocabulary issues in ITU-D Study Groups.

Following the presentation of Document 34 in TDAG Plenary, the representative from Russian Fed. extended a call for input to the original proposal. Comments from US were integrated in the current version of the document (Rev.1). The meeting welcomed the idea, in principle, of having a single ITU body on issues related to vocabulary. Some delegates, however, expressed reservations regarding a new resolution. Others refrained from taking position at that stage given the cross-sectoral nature of the issue and the needs to discuss it extensively across ITU. The Chairman of CG-SR noted that the proposal has to be sent to ITU Council-17 where the issue will be brought to the attention of all three sectors and where a decision will be taken on going forward with it.

### Issues related to Resolution 2

[Document 53](http://www.itu.int/md/D14-TDAG22-C-0053): The document entitled “***Proposed modifications to Resolution 2***”, was introduced by the People’s Republic of China Administration. The document proposes adding to the scope of ITU-D Study Group 1 the following two topics: 1) opportunities and challenges for video services in ICT applications; 2) construction and operation of trans-multi-country optical fiber terrestrial cables. In addition, it suggests that a new ITU-D Study Group on Indicators be established with a view to upgrade the existing Expert Group on Indicators.

CG-SR noted Document 53 and the related Documents 50 and 54 and encouraged China to continue working on revised proposals. The Chairman suggested bringing the proposals to the attention of the Asia-Pacific regional group as part of the regional preparatory work for WTDC-17.

[Document 55](http://www.itu.int/md/D14-TDAG22-C-0055): The document entitled “***Proposal for modifying the section 2 in Question 1/2***”, was introduced by the People’s Republic of China Administration. The document highlights the absence of a standard for how to construct a smart city and the importance of experience sharing and exchange between countries and cities when undertaking this process. In this regard, the document proposes text for the revision of the study Question, based on the current Question 1/2 - Creating the smart society: Social and economic development through ICT applications.

The proposal received the following feedback:

* The representative from UAE suggested removing the issue of standards from the definition of the question given that ITU-T has a dedicated Study Group working on it.
* The representative from Rwanda suggested including more experiences on the matter of smart cities from developing countries along the next study period.

The Chairman of CG-SR encouraged the author of the contribution to revise it in the light of the comments received and discuss it within the Asia-Pacific regional group.

[Document 56](http://www.itu.int/md/D14-TDAG22-C-0056): The document entitled “***Proposals for the revision and rearrangement of ITU-D Study Groups 1 and 2 study Questions***”, was introduced by the Russian Federation Administration focusing on proposals for modification of ITU-D Study Group questions. The document proposes measures to improve the efficiency of ITU-D Study Groups and the Sector as a whole by reviewing the structure of the Study Groups, reducing the number of study Questions by reviewing and/or rearranging them and considering the role of the SDGs. The proposals could be implemented when revising the structure of the ITU-D study groups and allocation of Questions (WTDC Resolution 2) and the working methods (WTDC Resolution 1).

The meeting noted the contribution. The Chairman of CG-SR suggested that the proposal be submitted for further discussion and elaboration to the CIS regional group. The representative from Russian Fed. agreed to do so.

[Document 61](http://www.itu.int/md/D14-TDAG22-C-0061): This document entitled “***Proposed modifications to Question 5/1 - Telecommunications/ICTs for rural and remote areas***”, was introduced by the Japan Administration. The document proposes the continuation of Question 5/1 for the next study period and requests that the expected deliverables of the Question include a handbook and case study analysis reports, in addition to a final report. Revised text based on the current Question 5/1 - Telecommunications/ICTs for rural and remote areas, is also provided.

The meeting noted the contribution and delegates provided the following feedback:

* The representative from Russian Fed. stressed the need to avoid duplication between Questions 5/1, 1/1 and 2/1. He also suggested considering merging all questions dealing with the same issues (e.g. broadband) in view of reducing the number of questions.
* The representative from Korea (Rep.) called for consistency with the outcome from Study Group 1 and 2 meetings in March-April 2017. Likewise, the representative from Côte d’Ivoire added that it had been agreed to continue Question 5/1 as a standalone question.
* Several delegates opposed the proposal in Documents 56 and 61 to combine the issues of EMF and e-health as those were not correlated, including China, South Africa, UAE and ATDI.
* The representative from Intel noted that the focus of the Question should not be limited to low-speed internet for rural areas but should also include broadband to enable populations to access e-services and applications.

Documents 62, 63, 64, 65 and 67 were discussed together.

[Document 62](http://www.itu.int/md/D14-TDAG22-C-0062): This document entitled “***Proposed modifications to Question 2/2 - Information and telecommunications for e-health***”, was introduced by the Japan Administration. The document proposes the continuation of Question 2/2 for the next study period and suggests possible activities to be undertaken by Question 2/2 in this context. Revised text based on the current Question 2/2 - Information and telecommunications/ICTs for e-health, is also provided.

[Document 63](http://www.itu.int/md/D14-TDAG22-C-0063): This document entitled “***Proposal to continue the study of cybersecurity in Question 3/2***”, was introduced by the Japan Administration. The document emphasizes the importance of ongoing discussion and work on cybersecurity for the benefit of developing countries. It proposes the continuation of Question 3/2 for the next study period to lead discussions and information sharing on cybersecurity topics/issues among ITU-D members from the public and private sectors. It expresses support for the revised title of Question 3/2 “Best practices for addressing emerging and evolving threats to cybersecurity” as agreed during the April 2017 ITU-D SG2 meeting.

[Document 64](http://www.itu.int/md/D14-TDAG22-C-0064): This document entitled “***Proposed modifications to Question 4/2 - Assistance to developing countries for implementing conformance and interoperability programmes***”, was introduced by the Japan Administration. The document proposes the continuation of Question 4/2 for the next study period and suggests adding to its scope combating counterfeit and combating mobile device theft.

[Document 65](http://www.itu.int/md/D14-TDAG22-C-0065): The document entitled “***Proposed changes for the description of disaster management related study Question***”, was introduced by the Japan Administration. The document proposes key topics which should be studied during the next study period, especially in the area of disaster management. Revised text based on the current Question 5/2 - Utilization of telecommunications/ICTs for disaster preparedness, mitigation and response, is also provided.

[Document 67](https://www.itu.int/md/D14-TDAG22-C-0067/en): The document entitled **“*Proposal of a new Resolution for eHealth (Revision of Res. 41 (Istanbul, 2002))*”** was introduced by the Japan Administration. The proposal is based on WTDC Resolution 41 (Istanbul, 2002) that was abrogated at WTDC-2006 in Doha. It puts forward considerations for the next generation of eHealth.

The meeting noted the contributions and delegates provided the following feedback:

* There was a general agreement that the number of questions should be reduced, in particular through merging similar topics.
* There was a general agreement that duplication should be avoided.
* The representative from US expressed concerns with associating the issue of counterfeit with that of conformance and interoperability (C&I).

### Issues related to Resolution 9

[Document 51](https://www.itu.int/md/D14-TDAG22-C-0051): The document entitled ***“Incoming Liaison Statement - Cooperation and Coordination between ITU-R and ITU-D on WTDC Resolution 9 (Rev. Dubai, 2014)”*** was introduced by the RAG Vice-Chairman on behalf of RAG. It brings to the attention of TDAG the RAG views concerning possible improvements on cooperation and coordination between ITU-R and ITU-D on WTDC Resolution 9 (Rev. Dubai, 2014). The document also proposes amendments to WTDC-14 Resolution 9 (Rev. Dubai, 2014), fostering the organization of workshops or seminars to present and explain the output of ITU-R SG 1 instead of writing a report during the ITU-D study period. RAG expresses its concern that appropriate consideration of all the ITU-R requested modifications have not been made in the Final Report on Resolution 9 which nevertheless was approved at the March 2017 ITU-D SG1 meeting.

The meeting noted the contributions and delegates provided the following feedback:

* Several delegates supported the contribution in principle.
* Several delegates supported the idea of organizing joint workshops, including Côte d’Ivoire, Jordan, Russian Fed. and UAE.
* While some delegates supported the continuation of Resolution 9, others were of the opinion that the different procedures in ITU-D and ITU-R create challenges in carrying out the work. Several delegates called, therefore, for harmonizing procedures across the sectors as well as for spelling out the concrete mechanisms for collaboration under WTDC Resolution 1 (e.g., liaison statements, correspondence group).
* Delegates agreed that other mechanisms for collaboration between ITU-D and ITU-R should also be explored.

The Chairman of CG-SR explained that given that the topic is complex and of high importance and the views expressed diverged, CG-SR would be handing back to the plenary the issues at stake.

## Way forward

The Chairman, Dr Sharafat, will submit his final report on the work of CG-SR to TDAG-2017 and it will include all major outcomes of the work of CG-SR. Once approved by TDAG, the report will be sent to WTDC-17. In parallel, the various contributions for merging resolutions will also be submitted to WTDC by the Member States or regions sponsors of the proposals for streamlining.

During the meeting, the BDT Director took the floor to underscore that every discussion and every document are stages in the preparation for WTDC-17. Countries need to be aware of other countries’ views as regions need to be informed of the proposals of other regions. The process of exchanging information and concrete proposals is important and useful, and will hopefully facilitate the work at WTDC-17.

The Chairman noted that CG-SR was an excellent place for informing all interested parties of the state of discussion in all regions. CG-SR has provided a mechanism to facilitate coordination and cooperation between countries and between regions on the issues of mutual interest. This would hopefully help country administrations and the regional groups to far more effectively and practically create agreement during WTDC-17.

## Any other business

No further items have been discussed under this agenda item.

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