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|  | **Document** **TDAG17-22/****64-E** |
|  | **26 April 2017** |
|  | **Original:** **English**  |
| Japan |
| PROPOSED MODIFICATIONS TO QUESTION 4/2 - ASSISTANCE TO DEVELOPING COUNTRIES FOR IMPLEMENTING CONFORMANCE AND INTEROPERABILITY PROGRAMMES |
|  |
| **Summary:**Assistance to developing countries for implementing C&I programmes is one of the critical mission of ITU. This contribution proposes to continue the Q4/2 for the next study period. It also proposes to add combating counterfeit and combating mobile device theft to the scope of Q4/2 in order to enhance and enforce these important studies in ITU-D.**Action required:**TDAG is invited to consider this document and take action **References:**N/A |

# Introduction

Conformance and interoperability (C&I) is one of the high concerning and interested issues among ITU member states. It was raised with very high demand from developing countries and these activities in ITU have been endorsed and enforced by Resolution 76 (Rev. Hammamet, 2016) of the World telecommunication Standardization Assembly (WTSA) and Resolution 177 (Rev. Busan, 2014). Q4/2 is designed as dedicated question to study on C&I and has taken the lead role in ITU-D.

# Rationale

In the past meetings of Q4 SG2, there were certain number of contributions submitted and discussed. These contributions contained knowledge, experiences and facing issues of each country such as country report on conformity assessment, national standardization activities and deployment of interoperability and compliance regime in developing countries etc. TSB reported on the activities conducted in the framework of Pillars 1 and 2 of the ITU C&I Programme. ITU-T Study Group 11 as a lead study group on the implementation of the ITU C&I Programme and developed C&I action plan. Multiple ITU-T study groups define requirements/parameters to be tested and relevant test suites according to user and market needs. ITU developed the ITU-T Conformity Database and conducted ITU interop events. Some of them were organized jointly ITU and regional standard bodies. BDT reported on activities conducted in the framework of Pillar 3 and Pillar 4 of the ITU C&I Programme. The capacity building activities conducted on regional basis for training experts on C&I issues, in collaboration with regional partners. The assistance provided to developing countries and assessment studies conducted on a regional basis for establishing C&I regimes. These reports and contributions were shared among member countries as useful and helpful information. Q4/2 is recognized as an important and indispensable platform to exchange information, analyze standard gap, familiarize standardization and assist developing countries on C&I in this study period.

ICT market are growing and technologies are rapidly changing. Emerging products and services are invented and realized in the industries in every day. To ensure interoperability of emerging networks and services such as cloud computing, Internet of Things, Smart City and 5G/IMT-2020 are high concerning issues of member countries and one of the critical task which ITU should challenge. WTSA Resolution 76 was revised and reaffirmed with seven contributions and new Resolution 96 and 97 were adopted in WTSA-16.

* WTSA Resolution 96 (Hammarmet, 2016) *Studies for combating counterfeit telecommunication /information and communication technology devices*
* WTSA Resolution 97(Hammarmet, 2016) *Combating mobile telecommunication device theft*

These two Resolutions are also urgent and high interests issues and define instructs to TSB in close collaboration with BDT to assist developing countries. Methodologies of C&I can help to combat counterfeit ICT equipment and prevent using stolen devices. These issues should be studied in a single question with C&I in ITU-D to earn synergy with high efficiency and contribute to developing countries.

# Proposals

Considering the mentions above, hereby this contribution proposes to continue the Q4/2 for the next study period to study the C&I and relevant issues including combating counterfeit and combating mobile device theft. The annex to this contribution contains proposed modifications to Q4/2 texts.

ANNEX

Dubai Action Plan

Section 5 – Study Group Questions

STUDY GROUP 2

Question 4/2

Assistance to developing countries for implementing programmes for
conformance and interoperability, combating counterfeit and combating mobile device theft

# 1 Statement of the situation or problem

Inclusion of an ITU‑D study group Question on this matter provides an effective way to further the aims of Resolution 47 (Rev. Dubai, 2014) of the World telecommunication Development Conference (WTDC), Resolution 76 (Rev. Hammamet, 2016), Resolution 96 (Hammamet, 2016) and Resolution 97 (Hammamet, 2016) of the World telecommunication Standardization Assembly (WTSA) and Resolution 177 (Rev. Busan, 2014) and Resolution 188 (Busan, 2014) of the Plenipotentiary Conference.

Member States and ITU‑D Sector Members can assist and guide each other by conducting studies, building tools to bridge the standardization gap, and navigating issues related to matters raised in the above-mentioned resolutions. ITU‑D can harness the energy of its membership to examine these important issues.

In a global economy characterized by rapid technological change, a variety of ICT solutions and the convergence of telecommunication networks and services, ICT users – public entities, businesses and consumers – understandably have certain expectations regarding interoperability, quality and also environmental sustainability of products and services.

In this regard, to facilitate safe usage of products and services anywhere in the world, regardless of who is the manufacturer or service provider, it is crucial that products and services be developed in accordance with relevant international standards, regulations and other specifications, and that their compliance be tested.

Counterfeit of telecommunication/ICT equipment’s is a growing issue in socio-economic problem. It causes significant negative impact to the innovation, levels of foreign direct investment, growth in the economy and levels of employment and may also redirect resources into organized criminal networks.

Preventing and combating to use stolen mobile device is another issue. The theft of user-owned mobile devices may lead to the criminal use of telecommunication/ICT services and applications, resulting in economic losses for the lawful owner and user.

Implementing the measures to combating counterfeit of telecommunication/ICT device and mobile device theft are urgent and high interested issue among developing countries. Methodologies of conformance and interoperability can provide technical solutions for them.

The Question will ultimately contribute to international community's effort in adopting eco‑friendly set of harmonized standards, since the countries can, through conformance and interoperability (C&I) regime instruments, better control and authenticate products.

Conformity assessment increases the probability of interoperability, i.e. equipment built by different manufacturers being capable of communicating successfully. In addition, it helps to ensure that products and services are delivered according to expectations. Conformity assessment builds consumer trust and confidence in tested products and consequently strengthens the business environment and, thanks to interoperability, the economy benefits from business stability, scalability and cost reduction of systems, equipment and tariffs.

While economically C&I increases market opportunities, encourages trade and technology transfer and contributes to the removal of technical barriers and prevent using counterfeit products, socially it helps to extend ICT service availability and affordability to all people at a good level of quality.

To increase the benefits of C&I, many countries have adopted harmonized C&I regimes at both national and bi-/multilateral level. However, some developing countries have not yet done so because of a number of major challenges, such as the lack of appropriate/adequate infrastructure and technology development to be in a position to test or to recognize tested ICT equipment (e.g. accredited laboratories).

Availability of high-quality, high-performing products will accelerate widespread deployment of the infrastructure, technologies and associated services, allowing people to access the information society regardless of their location or chosen device, and contributing to implementing the outcomes of the World Summit on the Information Society (WSIS).

In this respect, other outcomes of the Plenipotentiary Conference, ITU‑D, ITU‑T and ITU‑R resolutions and Recommendations, and in particular Resolution 177 (Rev. Busan, 2014), Resolution 47 (Rev. Dubai, 2014), Resolution 76 (Rev. Hammamet, 2016), Resolution 96 (Hammamet, 2016), Resolution 97 (Hammamet, 2016) and Resolution ITU‑R 62 (Geneva, 2012) of the Radiocommunication Assembly, should serve as a basis for the study of this Question, and as the framework for ITU's business plan developed upon request of ITU's Member States, which establishes the following four pillars:

• Pillar 1: Conformance assessment

• Pillar 2: Interoperability

• Pillar 3: Capacity building

• Pillar 4: Establishment of C&I regimes, including building laboratories.

The report presented by the Secretary-General to the 2013 session of the ITU Council ("Conformance and Interoperability Programme Status Report and Action Plan" – Document C13/24(Rev.1)) was positively commented on by the councillors, who unanimously referred to the importance of activities relating to conformance and interoperability, supported the work accomplished by ITU in that area, and urged the Union to continue that work.

# 2 Question or issue for study

The Question is established in ITU‑D Study Group 2,to examine these issues and undertake the following, taking into account the economic impact of previously mentioned programmes, including on Member States and Sector Members:

2.1 In close collaboration with the relevant BDT programme(s), identify and assess what the challenges, priorities and problems are for countries, subregions or regions with respect to the application of ITU‑T Recommendations, approaches to meeting the confidence needs associated with equipment conformance to ITU‑T Recommendations and other related issues, identifying critical issues/priority issues in countries, subregions or regions, and identifying related best practices.

2.2 Examine how information transfer, know-how, training and institutional and human capacity development can strengthen the ability of developing countries to reduce risks associated with low-quality equipment, and equipment interoperability issues. Examine effective information-sharing systems and best practices to assist in this work.

2.3 Examine global trends related to these matters.

2.4 Elaborate a methodology for the implementation of this Question, in particular gathering evidence and information regarding current best practices being adopted to create C&I programmes, taking into consideration progress achieved by the all ITU Sectors in this regard.

2.5 Techniques designed to promote harmonization of C&I regimes, to improve regional integration and to contribute to bridging the standardization gap, consequently reducing the digital divide.

2.6 Information regarding the establishment of mutual recognition agreements (MRA) between countries. Guidance on concepts and procedures to establish and manage MRAs.2.7 Techniques on market surveillance and maintenance of C&I regimes in order to guarantee the credibility and sustainability of the conformance assessment scheme put in place.

# 3 Expected output

In the next ITU‑D study period 2018-2021, studies of various issues related to conformance and interoperability are to be reported, including a description of the technical, legislative and regulatory framework that would be needed to implement appropriate C&I programmes by developing countries.

Specifically, the following outputs are envisaged:

a) Harmonized guidelines on technical, legal and regulatory aspects of a C&I regime including combating counterfeit and mobile device theft

b) Feasibility studies regarding the establishment of laboratories in different C&I domains

c) Guidance on the framework and procedures to establish MRAs

d) Case studies on C&I, combating counterfeit and mobile device theft regimes established at national, regional or global levels

e) Development of a methodology for assessing the status of C&I, combating counterfeit and mobile device theft regimes in place in the regions (or subregions)

f) Experience-sharing and case study reports on C&I, combating counterfeit and mobile device theft implementation of programmes.

# 4 Timing

4.1 Annual progress reports will be submitted to ITU‑D Study Group 2.

4.2 A final report will be submitted to ITU‑D Study Group 2.

# 5 Proposers/sponsors

United States; Algérie Télécom; Arab States.

# 6 Sources of input

1) Member States, Sector Members and relevant experts.

2) Examination of regulations, policies and practices in countries that have created systems to manage these matters.

3) Other relevant international organizations.

4) Interviews, existing reports and surveys should also be used to gather data and information for the finalization of a comprehensive set of best-practice guidelines for administering C&I information. Material from regional telecommunication organizations, telecommunication research centres, manufacturers and working groups should also be utilized in order to avoid duplication of work. Close cooperation with ITU‑T study groups, in particular Study Group 11 and the Joint Coordination Activity on C&I testing (JCA-CIT), and with other organizations (e.g. ILAC, IAF, ISO, IEC) involved in conformance and interoperability activities and other actions within ITU‑D is required and extremely important.

# 7 Target audience

| Target audience | Developed countries | Developing countries[[1]](#footnote-1)1 |
| --- | --- | --- |
| Telecom policy-makers | Yes | Yes |
| Telecom regulators | Yes | Yes |
| Service providers/operators | Yes | Yes |
| Manufacturers | Yes | Yes |
| Consumers/end-users | Yes | Yes |
| Standards-development organizations, including consortia | Yes | Yes |
| Testing laboratories | Yes | Yes |
| Certification bodies | Yes | Yes |

a) Target audience

Depending on the nature of the output, policy- and decision-makers, middle- to upper‑level managers in operators, laboratories, SDOs, certification bodies, market-research agencies, regulators and ministries in developed, developing and least developed countries will be the predominant users of the output. Compliance managers at equipment manufacturers and system integrators could also use the output for information.

b) Proposed methods for implementation of the results

The results of the Question are to be distributed through ITU‑D interim and final reports. This will provide a means for the audience to have periodic updates of the work carried out and a means for the audience to provide input and/or seek clarification/more information from ITU‑D Study Group 2 should they need it.

# 8 Proposed methods of handling the Question or issue

The Question will be addressed within a study group over a four-year study period (with submission of interim results), and will be managed by a rapporteur and vice‑rapporteurs. This will enable Member States and Sector Members to contribute their experiences and lessons learned with respect to conformity assessment, type-approval and interoperability.

# 9 Coordination

9.1 The ITU‑D study group dealing with this Question will need to coordinate with:

– Relevant ITU‑T study groups, particularly Study Group 11

– Relevant focal points in BDT and ITU regional offices

– Coordinators of relevant project activities in BDT

– Standards-development organizations (SDOs)

– Conformity-assessment bodies (including testing organizations and laboratories, accreditation organizations, etc.) and industry consortia

– Consumers/end users

– Experts in this field.

# 10 BDT programme link

a) WTDC Resolution 47 (Rev. Dubai, 2014)

b) WTSA Resolution 76 (Rev. Hammamet, 2016)

c) WTSA Resolution 44 (Rev. Hammamet, 2016)

d) C&I Action Plan Pillars 3 and 4 (Council Document C13/24(Rev.1))

Links to BDT programmes aimed at human-capacity development and assistance to operators in developing and least developed countries, programmes that deal with technical assistance and programmes concerning conformance and interoperability.

# 11 Other relevant information

As may become apparent within the life of this Question.

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1. 1 These include the least developed countries, small island developing states, landlocked developing countries and countries with economies in transition. [↑](#footnote-ref-1)