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| **Telecommunication DevelopmentAdvisory Group (TDAG)****24th Meeting, Geneva, 3-5 April 2019** | C:\Users\comas\AppData\Local\Temp\Rar$DRa0.735\jpg\ITU official logo_blue_RGB.jpg |
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|  | **Document** **TDAG-19/5-E** |
|  | **2 April 2019** |
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| Chairman, ISCG |
| progress report by the Inter-Sector Coordination GROUP (ISCG) on Issues of Mutual Interest |
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| **Summary:** The Inter-Sector Coordination Group[[1]](#footnote-1) on issues of mutual interest was established jointly by the Advisory Groups of all three ITU Sectors – Radiocommunication (ITU-R), Telecommunication Standardization (ITU-T) and Telecommunication Development (ITU-D) – to optimize the use of resources. In carrying out its functions, the group identifies subjects common to the three Sectors and the General Secretariat, or, bilaterally. The group also considers an updated list (prepared by the secretariat) containing the areas of mutual interest to the three Sectors and the General Secretariat pursuant to the mandates assigned by each ITU assembly or conference, and in accordance with the objectives of the ITU Strategic Plan. This report highlights the inter-Sectoral coordination activities which Sector advisory groups have undertaken since March 2018.**Action required:** TDAG is invited to note the document and provide guidance as deemed appropriate.**References:** PP Resolution 191 (Rev. Dubai, 2018); WTDC Resolution 59 (Rev. Buenos Aires, 2017), ([TDAG-18/37](https://www.itu.int/md/D18-TDAG23-C-0037/)); TDAG-LS4; ISCG-LS1, TSAG-LS14 |

1. **Background**

The Inter-Sector Coordination Group (ISCG) on issues of mutual interest was set up under decisions of the Sector advisory groups, in order to eliminate duplication of effort and optimize the use of resources. ISCG is composed of representatives from the Radiocommunication Advisory Group (RAG), Telecommunication Standardization Advisory Group (TSAG) and Telecommunication Development Advisory Group (TDAG).

At its last meeting on 9 April 2018, held in conjunction with the TDAG-18 meeting (9-11 April 2018), ISCG proposed revisions to its terms of reference and updated the list of areas of mutual interest to include candidate topics on working methods for ITU inter-Sector coordination (see **Annex 1**). In addition, ISCG reviewed and approved the mappings of common interest areas of work between ITU-D and ITU-T study groups and between ITU-R and ITU-T study groups contained in two attachments received from TSAG’s meeting, held in Geneva from 26 February to 2 March 2018.

Following changes to Resolution 191 (Rev. Dubai, 2018) of the Plenipotentiary Conference on the strategy for the coordination of efforts among the three Sectors the Union, ISCG’s scope of work has been expanded.

ISCG now identifies mechanisms to strengthen cooperation and joint activity on issues of mutual interest not just among the three Sectors, but also the General Secretariat paying particular attention to the interests of the developing countries, and taking into account the activities of the regional offices, including their role in the organization of events (workshops, seminars, symposia).

1. **Meetings of the Sector advisory groups and inter-Sector coordination**
	1. **Radiocommunication Advisory Group**

At its meeting held in Geneva on 26-29 March 2018, RAG considered the various liaison statements on Inter-sector coordination and noted that there are areas of overlap in the activities of the different Sectors and that further efforts should be made to avoid such overlaps.

RAG invited the Director of the Radiocommunication Bureau (BR) to work with the Director of the Telecommunication Development Bureau (BDT) and the Director of the Telecommunication Standardization Bureau (TSB) to identify areas of overlap and bring them to the attention of the Inter-Sector Coordination Group on issues of mutual interest and the Inter-Sectoral Coordination Task Force, with a view to eliminating the overlaps. RAG noted that membership may wish to take any additional action they deem appropriate in this regard.

RAG further noted that the World Telecommunication Development Conference (Buenos Aires, 2017) revised a number of resolutions of mutual interest. An example of this is Resolution 9 (Rev. Buenos Aires, 2017) on participation of countries, particularly developing countries, in spectrum management.

In this context, RAG invited the Director of BR to express RAG’s appreciation to the Director of BDT, TDAG and ITU-D Study Group 1 for the work carried out on Resolution 9 prior to and during WTDC-17. The document conveying this message is entitled “Studies in response to Resolution 9 (Rev. Buenos Aires, 2017) – Participation of countries, particularly developing countries, in spectrum management”. It contains an annex providing a “preliminary list of ITU-R Study Group 1 studies in the field of radio spectrum management that might be of interest for the developing countries in response to WTDC-17 Resolution 9.”

* 1. **Telecommunication Development Advisory Group**

At its meeting on 9-11 April 2018, TDAG welcomed and considered the progress report from the Inter-Sector Coordination Group on issues of mutual interest and expressed appreciation to the group for updating the mappings in the two attachments and to TSAG for providing the original material in these attachments. TDAG also agreed to transmit the two attachments to ITU-D study groups for further review during their meetings in April-May 2018.

TDAG appointed Ms Nurzat Boljobekova and Mr Arseny Plossky as its representatives to the Inter-Sector Coordination Group on issues of mutual interest, thanked Mr Fabio Bigi for agreeing to lead the group over the new four-year period, and discussed the draft revision to the group’s terms of reference. No objection was expressed to adding the activities of the General Secretariat to the scope of work of ISCG. However, TDAG agreed that further clarification was needed on a number of issues. Questions were, for example, raised regarding the composition and title of the group, which was then known as the Inter-Sector Coordination Team (ISCT) on Issues of Mutual Interest.

Additional questions were raised regarding the relationship of the Inter-Sectoral Coordination Task Force (ISC-TF) and ISCT, the first being an internal-ITU coordination mechanism, while the latter is a body composed of representatives of the three advisory groups. TDAG noted that the issue would be examined further and decided upon at the Council (Geneva, 17-27 April 2018), and recommended that the Director of BDT inform the Council about its discussions on this topic.

With regard to Resolution 9 (Rev. Buenos Aires, 2017) TDAG invited study group chairmen to integrate the resources, to the extent possible and as required, in the work of the Questions under study.

* 1. **Telecommunication Standardization Advisory Group**

At its meeting in Geneva on 10-14 December 2018, TSAG reviewed and accepted all amendments to its original mappings in attachments 1 and 2. Some of the amendments were made by ITU-D Study Group 1, which covers the enabling environment to develop telecommunications/ICTs, and ITU-D Study Group 2, which covers ICT services and applications to promote sustainable development. Both study groups were meeting for the first time in the 2018-2021, and reviewed and updated the three tables listed below during their meetings from 30 April to 11 May 2018:

* **Table 1** – ITU-D Questions vis-à-vis ITU-T Questions, including relevant work items (constantly evolving).
* **Table 2** – Matrix of ITU-D and ITU-T Questions.
* **Table 3**– List of ITU-T Questions which could be related to ITU-D Questions even in the absence of relevant ITU-T work items.

The mappings in these tables were again reviewed and updated in Study Group 1 and 2 Rapporteur Group meetings, held from 17 September to 11 October 2018. TDAG, working electronically, thanked the chairmen of the ITU-D study groups for updating the three tables linking ITU-D study Questions to related ITU-T work items and study Questions so comprehensively to support coordination between the Sectors.

Through a liaison statement of 5 December 2018, TDAG submitted these updated “mapping tables” to TSAG’s December 2018 meeting for comment and any further action that may be deemed appropriate.

TSAG has responded by providing updated mappings of common interest areas of work between the ITU-D and ITU-T study groups and between the ITU-R and ITU-T study groups for ITU inter-Sector coordination as follows:

* Attachment 1 – Matching of ITU-D SG 1 and 2 Questions of interest to ITU-T study groups.
* Attachment 2 – Matching of ITU-R WPs of interest to ITU-T study groups.

These attachments are reproduced here as **Annex 3**.

TSAG has requested action on these updated attachments from the ISCG and comment from TDAG, all ITU-D study groups, RAG, all ITU-R study groups, as well as ITU-T study groups 2, 3, 5, 9, 11, 12, 13, 15, 16, 17, 20.

With regard to Attachment 1, TSAG adopted a proposal to include the identification of work items in the ITU Sectors. TSAG is seeking views on whether “inclusion of work items that are evolving rapidly is deemed to support collaboration and cooperation across the Sectors, and is worthwhile to be maintained for the future maintenance of the tables; or if it would rather be deemed sufficient to have the tables just on the study groups and Questions without the list of work items?”

The mappings either show already ongoing ITU inter-Sector cooperation, or indicate possibilities for new inter-Sector cooperation. TSAG “would like to encourage the groups to take the next steps in engaging in bilateral inter-Sector coordination”.

Tables 2 in Attachments 1 and 2 will serve the three Sectors to avoid overlap and to liaise their reports only to the relevant interested groups in other Sectors. TSAG is “inviting any suggestions that would improve the collaboration and cooperation between the ITU Sectors”, and would like to be informed of any overlaps or possible duplication of work and is looking forward to receiving feedback.

* + 1. **ISCG terms of reference**

The Inter-Sector Coordination Group on issues of mutual interest, working electronically, submitted its proposed revised terms of reference to RAG, TSAG and TDAG through a liaison statement of 3 December 2018 for review, comment and approval. The proposed revisions are based on the discussions that took place during the TDAG-18 meeting in April and Council-18 (also in April 2018), as well as the changes made to Resolution 191 (Rev. Dubai, 2018) by the Plenipotentiary Conference.

TSAG reviewed the proposed revisions, added the words “General Secretariat” to the text, and approved the revised terms of reference of the Inter-Sector Coordination Group on issues of mutual interest as contained in **Annex 2**. TSAG has stated that it is “looking forward to a fruitful cooperation with ISCG.”

* + 1. **Streamlining resolutions**

TSAG discussed the following agreement reached by the Plenipotentiary Conference (Dubai, 2018) concerning streamlining resolutions:

*“As has been discussed in multiple sessions of Council, this Plenipotentiary Conference (PP) acknowledged the need for streamlining of resolutions. The discussions included observations that multiple resolutions in all three Sectors reproduce preambular text that exists in a PP resolution. PP aware that some Sector resolutions are integrations of PP resolutions, these resolutions should not be considered as repetition.*

*Repetition of such text among Conferences and Assemblies of the ITU causes inefficiencies and increased costs.*

*PP instructs the Secretariat to provide analysis and identify outcomes of PP and Sectoral Assemblies/Conferences, which address similar topics and submit it for consideration to RAG, TSAG, TDAG and Council, and the inter-Sector coordination team.*

*Member States and Sector Members are invited to use this material in their preparation to Sector Assemblies/Conferences, as appropriate.*

*PP invites Member States, Conferences and Assemblies to support the principle of streamlining the resolutions in order to avoid repetition. Of course, resolutions dealing with subjects that are specific to a single Sector will exist as resolutions for the Sector concerned.”*

As a first step, TSAG has provided a mapping of the resolutions of the World Telecommunication Standardization Assembly (WTSA), World Telecommunication Development Conference (WTDC) and Radiocommunication Assembly (RA) onto those of the Plenipotentiary Conference (PP), with the purpose of identifying candidate resolutions for streamlining.

The mapping is presented in “Attachment 1 –TSAG-TD311 “Mapping of WTSA, WTDC Resolutions, and RA Resolutions onto PP Resolutions with the purpose of identifying candidate Resolutions for streamlining”. TSAG would welcome any comments or feedback from ISCG, ISC-TF, TDAG, RAG, all ITU-T study groups by 31 August 2019.

1. **Efforts for collaboration and coordination among Sectors**

Efforts for collaboration and coordination among Sectors are ongoing. In particular, the electronic calendar of events for years 2019, 2020, 2021 and 2022 is facilitating collaboration and coordination of various meetings and events of the ITU Sectors. These yearly event calendars are updated regularly and are available to members at the following link:
<https://www.itu.int/en/ITU-D/Pages/default.aspx>

# Annex 1

# List of areas of mutual interest

1. Participation

1.1 Remote participation.

1.2 E-meetings, e-correspondence groups.

1.3 Increasing involvement of developing countries.

1.4 Participation issues, including vice-chairmen tasks.

 1.5 Leadership team issues (chairmen and vice-chairmen, but also rapporteurs and associate rapporteurs).

1.6 Non-member participation.

2. Document handling

 2.1 Electronic document handling.

 2.2 Deadline for submission of secretariat contributions for action.

 2.3 Electronic access to documents, including the application of the access policy of the documents decided by the Council.

3. Registration

 3.1 Harmonization of registration.

 3.2 Registration for participation in meetings, including for remote participants.

4. Improvement of the ITU webpages in official ITU languages taking into account best practices.

 4.1 Language issues

5. Meeting planning.

5.1 Preparation to conferences and meetings.

5.2 Further enhancement and optimization of seminars/symposia/workshops/capacity building.

5.3 Collaboration and cooperation on events.

6. Streamlined establishment procedures of inter-Sector Rapporteur group (IRG).

6.1 Liaison statement handling of Inter-Sector Rapporteur Groups

7. Identification of technical issues with common interests.

8. Exchange of information on related study activities

8.1 Improvement of interaction between working parties and study groups of different Sectors.

9. Working methods (Resolution 1) of the three Sectors and application of best practices.

10. Sector membership.

**Annex 2**

**[Draft revised] Terms of Reference for ISCG**

**Background documents**

1. Resolution 191 (Rev. Dubai, 2018) of the Plenipotentiary Conference, on strategy for the coordination of efforts among the three Sectors the Union;
2. Resolution ITU-R 6-2 (Rev. Geneva, 2015) of the Radiocommunication Assembly (RA), on liaison and collaboration with the ITU Telecommunication Standardization Sector (ITU-T), and Resolution ITU-R 7-3 (Rev. Geneva, 2015) of RA, on telecommunication development including liaison and collaboration with the ITU Telecommunication Development Sector (ITU-D);
3. Resolution 45 (Rev. Hammamet, 2016) of the World Telecommunication Standardization Assembly (WTSA), on effective coordination of standardization work across study groups in ITU‑T and the role of the Telecommunication Standardization Advisory Group (TSAG);
4. Resolution 18 (Rev. Hammamet, 2016) of WTSA, on principles and procedures for the allocation of work to, and coordination between, the ITU Radiocommunication and ITU Telecommunication Standardization Sectors;
5. Resolution 5 (Rev. Buenos Aires, 2017) of the World Telecommunication Development Conference (WTDC), on enhanced participation by developing countries[[2]](#footnote-2) in the activities of the Union;
6. Resolution 59 (Rev. Buenos Aires, 2017) of WTDC, on strengthening coordination and cooperation among the three ITU Sectors on matters of mutual interest.

The Inter-Sector Coordination Group (ISCG) on issues of mutual interest was set up under decisions of the Sector advisory groups, in order to eliminate duplication of effort and optimize the use of resources. While carrying out its functions ISCG will:

* identify subjects common to the three Sectors and the General Secretariat, or, bilaterally, and consider an updated list (prepared by the secretariat) containing the areas of mutual interest to the three Sectors and the General Secretariat pursuant to the mandates assigned by each ITU assembly or conference, and in accordance with the objectives of the ITU Strategic Plan;
* identify the necessary mechanisms to strengthen cooperation and joint activity among the three Sectors and the General Secretariat, or with each Sector, on issues of mutual interest, paying particular attention to the interests of the developing countries, and taking into account the activities of the regional offices, including their role in the organization of events (workshops, seminars, symposia, etc.);
* report annually to the respective advisory groups on the progress of the work undertaken, highlighting key issues to be raised with the respective Bureau Directors, as well as the Inter-Sector Coordination Task Force.

**Composition of the Inter-Sector Coordination Group on issues of mutual interest**

1. The ISCG will consist of representatives from the three Advisory Groups, keeping in mind the need for regional balance;
2. The ISCG is chaired by Mr Fabio Bigi (Italy);
3. Radiocommunication Advisory Group (RAG) representatives: Mr Peter Major and Mr Albert Nalbandian (Vice-Chairmen of RAG);
4. Telecommunication Standardization Advisory Group (TSAG) representatives: Mr Vladimir Minkin and Mr Matano Ndaro (Vice-Chairmen of TSAG);
5. Telecommunication Development Advisory Group (TDAG) representatives: Ms Nurzat Boljobekova and Mr Arseny Plossky (Vice-Chairmen of TDAG);
6. The ISCG is open to observers who are not the above representatives.

**Secretariat support**

The support of the group activity will be provided in accordance with Resolution 191 (Rev. Dubai, 2018).

**Working methods**

* The ISCG interactions may include e-mail exchange via the e-mail list or through electronic meetings;
* The ISCG will use the e-mail list int-sect-team@lists.itu.int;
* Possible physical meetings may be held, preferably in conjunction with Sector advisory group meetings, and within available resources;
* A dedicated website is developed with links from Sector advisory Groups.

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1. Formerly known as the Inter-Sector Coordination Team on Issues of Mutual Interest (ISCT). [↑](#footnote-ref-1)
2. These include the least developed countries, small island developing states, landlocked developing countries and countries with economies in transition. [↑](#footnote-ref-2)