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| **Radiocommunication Assembly (RA‑15)Geneva, 26‑30 October 2015** |  |
| **INTERNATIONAL TELECOMMUNICATION UNION** |  |
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| **PLENARY MEETING** | **Document RA15/PLEN/32‑E** |
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| United Arab Emirates |
| Proposal from United Arab Emirates on Telecommunication/ICT accessibility for persons with disabilities and persons with specific needs |
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Abstract

The purpose of this contribution is to mainstream ITU activities between ITU sectors in the field of telecommunication/ ICT accessibility for persons with disabilities and persons with specific needs and bring this resolution to the attention of the World Radiocommunication Conference 2015.

Along these lines and due to the fact that ITU‑R specializes in developing and strengthening the national, regional and international broadband network infrastructures, training to access new ICT Services through Radiocommunication systems and other means.

It is considered of great importance that the ITU Radiocommunication Sector incorporates in its studies, research papers and other works to contribute to improving and harnessing telecommunication/ICT access for persons with disabilities and persons with specific needs specifically barriers created by using spectrum without considering the requirements for persons with disabilities and persons with specific needs.

We are witnessing the influence and increased use of wireless systems in hundreds of applications that help to improve people’s quality of life, their economic empowerment and social inclusion.

At respect, it is requested that the issue be included in the list of topics of common interest to reach an integrated approach in field, according to Resolution 191 of the Plenipotentiary Conference, Busan 2014 on Strategy for the Coordination of efforts among the three Sectors of the
Union (ITU‑R, ITU‑T and ITU‑D).

**ADD**

DRAFT NEW RESOLUTION (GENEVA, 2015)

Telecommunication/ICT accessibility for persons with disabilities
and persons with specific needs

The Radiocommunication Assembly (Geneva, 2015),

recalling

*a)* Article 12 of the International Telecommunication Regulations (ITR), adopted by the World Conference on International Telecommunications (WCIT) (Dubai, 2012), which stipulates that Member States should promote access for persons with disabilities to international telecommunication services, taking into account the relevant ITU‑T Recommendations;

*b)* Resolution 70 (Rev. Dubai, 2012) of the World Telecommunication Standardization Assembly on Telecommunication/information and communication technology accessibility for persons with disabilities and persons with specific needs, and the current regulatory frame, as well as the studies, initiatives and events on the subject carried out by the Telecommunication Standardization Sector of ITU (ITU‑T) and its Study Groups, in particular Study Groups 2 and 16, in cooperation with the Joint Coordination Activities on Accessibility and Human Factors (JCA‑AHF);

*c)* the outcome document of the High‑Level Meeting on Disability and Development (HLMDD) convened by the United Nations General Assembly at the level of Heads of State and Government on 23 September 2013, under the theme “The ICT Opportunity for a Disability-Inclusive Development Framework”, which stresses the need for inclusive development in which persons with disabilities are both agents and beneficiaries;

*d)* Resolution 175 (Rev. Busan, 2014) of the Plenipotentiary Conference, on telecommunication/information and communication technology (ICT) accessibility for persons with disabilities, including age‑related disabilities, which resolves to take account of persons with disabilities in the work of ITU;

*e)* Resolution 17 (Rev. Dubai 2014) of the WCTD on regional initiatives, in which the Arab, Asia-Pacific, Commonwealth of Independent States (CIS) and European countries have identified to harness the benefits brought by new technologies and to guarantee access to telecommunication/ICT services for persons with disabilities as a common issue;

*f)* Resolution 58 (Rev. Dubai, 2014) of the WTDC on telecommunication/information and communication technology (ICT) accessibility for persons with disabilities, including age-related disabilities,

emphasizing

*a)* the Statement of the WSIS+10 regarding the implementation of the WSIS outcome and the perspectivefor the WSIS 2015, adopted at the high‑level event WSIS+10 coordinated by ITU (Geneva, 2014), which claims that “ICTs have the potential to be a key enabler of development, and to be a critical component of innovative development solutions in the Post‑2015 Development Agenda. ICTs should be fully recognized as tools empowering people, and providing economic growth towards achieving development, taking into account the growing importance of relevant content, skills and an enabling environment”;

*b)* Resolution 191 (Busan, 2014) of the Plenipotentiary Conference on a strategy for the coordination of efforts among the three Sectors of the Union;

*c)* Resolution 200 (Busan, 2014) of the Plenipotentiary Conference on the Connect 2020 Agenda for global telecommunication/information and communication technology development, which established global goals and targets that consider essential the existence of enabling environments to guarantee accessible telecommunications/ICTs for persons with disabilities worldwide;

*d)* Resolution 196 (Busan, 2014) of the Plenipotentiary Conference on protecting telecommunication service users/consumers;

*e)* Resolution 197 (Busan, 2014) of the Plenipotentiary Conference on facilitating the Internet of Things to prepare for a globally connected world, so services that can redefine the IoT the relationship between people and devices,

recognizing

*a)* the ongoing work in the Radiocommunication Sector (ITU‑R):

i) Recommendation ITU‑R M.1076 entitled “Wireless communication systems for persons with impaired hearing”;

ii) the relevant parts of ITU‑R “DTTB Handbook – Digital terrestrial television broadcasting in the in the VHF/UHF bands”, about techniques to broadcast programmes for the hearing impaired;

iii) the initiatives tending to bridge the disability‑related digital divide, including the works of ITU‑R Study Group 6 on broadcasting and the creation of a new Inter Sector Rapporteur Group on Audiovisual Media Accessibility (IRG‑AVA) between ITU‑R and ITU‑T;

iv) the work of ITU‑R Working Parties 4A and 4B of Study Group 4, and Working Parties 5A and 5D of Study Group 5 regarding improving access to hearing aid prosthesis worldwide; and to recognize any barriers created by uses of spectrum without considering the requirements for persons with disabilities and persons with specific needs,

taking into account

that the use of telecommunications/ICTs by persons with disabilities and persons with specific needs represents an essential tool for their personal, social and economic development, giving them the chance in their lives to empower their autonomy,

resolves to instruct the Director of the Radiocommunication Bureau

1 to continue conducting studies, research, guidelines and recommendations, related to telecommunication/ICT accessibility for persons with disabilities and persons with specific needs in close cooperation with ITU‑T and ITU‑D;

2 to cooperate with the Directors of the Telecommunication Development Bureau and the Telecommunication Standardization Bureau in the sustainable development of devices and applications promoting compatibility of the new technologies with the current ones, in benefit of telecommunication/information and communication technologies for persons with disabilities and persons with specific needs; taking into account the need to protect persons with disabilities from new barriers created by the use of spectrum and related matters to the WRC;

3 to encourage and promote representation by persons with disabilities and persons with specific needs so as to ensure that their experiences, views and opinions are taken into account when developing and progressing ITU‑R work.

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