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| **Agenda item: PL 3** | **Document C24/65-E** |
| **5 May 2024** |
| **Original: English** |
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| Report by the Secretary-General |
| CONCLUSIONS FROM THE THIRD MEETING OF THE TSAG ON THE USE OF THE TERM “CHAIR” INSTEAD OF “CHAIRMAN” IN ITU-T RECOMMENDATIONS |
| **Purpose**This document informs the Council of the outcome of the third meeting of the Telecommunication Standardization Advisory Group (TSAG) held on 22-26 January advising the Director of the Telecommunication Standardization Bureau (TSB) to seek instructions from the Council on the use of the term “chair” instead of “chairman” in new or revised ITU-T Recommendations.**Action required by the Council**The Council is invited to **instruct** the TSB Director on the use of the term “chair” instead of “chairman” in new or revised ITU-T Recommendations.**Relevant link(s) with the Strategic Plan**N/A**Financial implications**Within the allocated budget 2024-2025.\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**References** *Report of the third meeting of the Telecommunication Standardization Advisory Group (Geneva, 22-26 January 2024):* [*ITU-T TSAG Report 4*](https://www.itu.int/md/T22-TSAG-R-0004/en); C*ouncil 2023 decision on the abrogation of Decision 500 (Document* [*C23/112*](https://www.itu.int/md/S23-CL-C-0112/en)*)* |

**Extract from the report of the third meeting of the Telecommunication Standardization Advisory Group (**[**ITU-T TSAG Report 4**](https://www.itu.int/md/T22-TSAG-R-0004/en)**)**

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| 21.1.4 | Concerningdraft revised Recommendation A.8[**RG-WM-2**], TSAG decided to:a) advise the TSB Director to seek instructions from the next session of the ITU Council on the use of the term "chair", instead of "chairman", in new or revised Recommendations.b) approve revised Recommendation **ITU-T A.8** "*Alternative approval process for new and revised ITU-T Recommendations*" ([TD450R2](https://www.itu.int/md/T22-TSAG-240122-TD-GEN-0450/en)).c) request TSB to pre-publish ITU-T A.8 (as contained in [TD450](https://www.itu.int/md/T22-TSAG-240122-TD-GEN-0450/en)) but to wait for the instructions from the ITU Council before proceeding with the final publication.NOTE 1 – [TD450R2](https://www.itu.int/md/T22-TSAG-240122-TD-GEN-0450/en) uses the term "chairman".NOTE 2 – Action a) is also relevant to other texts proposed for Determination at this meeting, namely draft Recommendations ITU-T A.7, A.18 (ex A.JCA) and A.24.NOTE 3 – The meeting decided to replace “chair” and “chairman” by “chairman/chair” in the texts of A.7, A.24 and A.18 (ex A.JCA) under TAP consultation. The instructions that TSAG will receive from the next ITU Council will be implemented before final publication. |
| 21.1.5 | TSAG decided to: **[RG-WM-4]**[…]b) determine new Recommendation **ITU-T** **A.24** "*Collaboration and exchange of information with other organizations*" ([TD470R1](https://www.itu.int/md/meetingdoc.asp?lang=en&parent=T22-TSAG-240122-TD-GEN-0470)). (See action a) of 21.1.4.) |
| 21.1.6 | TSAG determineddraft revised Recommendation **ITU-T A.7** "*Focus groups: Establishment and working procedures*" ([TD453](https://www.itu.int/md/meetingdoc.asp?lang=en&parent=T22-TSAG-240122-TD-GEN-0453)). **[RG-WM-3]** (See action a) of 21.1.4.) |
| 21.1.7 | TSAG determined draft new Recommendation **ITU-T A.18 (ex A.JCA)** ([TD467R1](https://www.itu.int/md/meetingdoc.asp?lang=en&parent=T22-TSAG-240122-TD-GEN-0467)). **[RG-**WM**-5]** (See action a) of 21.1.4.) |
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| 21.1.8 | The Russian Federation provided a statement regarding the use of the term chairman/chair:*The Russian Federation draws the attention of TSAG to the decision of WTSA (Resolution 1 on the rules of procedure of ITU-T) that "in the case of inconsistency, the Constitution, the Convention, the ITRs and the General Rules of conferences, assemblies and meetings of the Union (in that order) shall prevail over this resolution").**The Russian Federation also believes that there is neither formal Decision of the ITU Council, nor any other documents that are binding on member states, which would determine that, it is necessary to use a new term (chair) due to repeal of Council Decision 500. The ITU English language style guide is a supporting tool and should not be considered as justification for replacing terminology. The Russian Federation does not discuss the gender aspects of these terms, but advocates that their application in all ITU documents, including ITU-T, should be consistent with the terminology of the basic instruments of the Union (Convention and Constitution – CV & CS). Any changes to the text of the CV & CS must be carried out by the Plenipotentiary Conference. Any other decisions are in conflict with the CV & CS and create a dangerous precedent for violating the basic principles of the Union.* |
| […] |  |
| **23** | **Any other business** |
| 23.1 | The Russian Federation had made statement to summarize all their concerns, formal and informal discussions during this TSAG meeting regarding using terms "Chair/Vice-chair" instead "Chairman/Vice-chairman" as follows:*The Russian Federation objects to unjustified use of unagreed terms "Chair" and "Vice-Chair" in ITU-T documents during the meeting of the Telecommunication Standardization Advisory Group (TSAG) which in our opinion does not correspond to the working methods and the provisions of the ITU Convention and Constitution.**The Russian Federation does not consider it legitimate to use the abrogation of Council Decision 500 (C2000) (Doc. C23/3) and the related contents of the summary records of the seventh and last plenary meeting of the ITU Council meeting (Doc. C23/112) to amend the ITU English Language Style Guide and subsequent replacing the terms "Chairman/Vice-Chairman" with "Chair/Vice-Chair" in ITU documents.**The terms "Chairman/Chairmen" and "Vice-Chairmen/Vice-Chairmen" are used in the ITU Constitution in Article 3 and in the ITU Convention in Articles 2, 4, 6, 8, 9, 10, 11A, 13, 14A, 15, 16, 17A, 20, 31, as well as in the Resolutions of Plenipotentiary Conferences.**In this regard, the Russian Federation believes that the application by the TSB Secretariat of the Guide mentioned above to both working documents (TDs) and approved ITU-T documents as well as the practice of using this Guide as a tool for the ITU-T documents development as a justification for the legitimacy of updating the terminology mentioned earlier, leads to a contradiction with the provisions of the ITU Constitution and Convention.**The Russian Federation reiterates that any changes that are not accepted by all ITU Member States and are contrary to the Constitution and Convention of the Union, as well as the Resolutions of Plenipotentiary Conferences, are unacceptable, undermine the legitimacy of the very documents in which they are applied, and jeopardize the possibility of their application in activities of the Union. All existing and revised texts must remain unchanged with respect to the written use of the terms "Chairman/Vice-Chairman" in accordance with the provisions of the ITU Constitution and Convention until a related decision is made in the established manner.* |

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