SPCG/32C
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AN IMPERATIVE FROM THE ISO/TMB, IEC/SMB and ITU-T TSAG
EFFECTIVE COORDINATION AMONG ISO, IEC AND ITU-T TECHNICAL ACTIVITIES

Background

It has been widely recognized that increasingly technologies are converging and standards solutions for the benefit of industry will require greater cooperation and coordination among ISO, IEC and ITU-T. This is necessary to provide coherent standards solutions without conflicting requirements and to reduce any confusion and unnecessary resource burden to the global community of experts in standards development and users of the resulting standards.

ISO, IEC and ITU-T are fully committed to promoting and fostering such cooperation and coordination through two entities:

- The World Standards Cooperation (WSC), comprised of the officers of the three organizations in order to promote and support cooperation at the highest and strategic levels, and
- The Standardization Program Coordination Group (SPCG) comprised of members of the ISO/TMB, IEC/SMB and ITU-T to monitor and foster more effective coordination among technical level activities developing standards within the three organizations.

Our Vision for the work of the SPCG is as follows:

A coherent and coordinated set of standards across ISO, IEC and ITU-T

Key principles guiding technical level coordination include:

- We appreciate and accept legacy structural, process and cultural differences among the three organizations,
- All three organizations may have a legitimate stake in converging technology subjects, and solutions may not be limited to any one of these organizations.
- Overlaps in technical areas of interest of respective SDOs can lead to meaningful cooperation in areas of mutual interest,
- Some overlap and duplication among the three organizations may be appropriate if planned and coordinated, but we seek to avoid conflicting requirements, and
- An atmosphere of trust and respect among the three organization is vital to effective coordination.

The ISO/TMB, IEC/SMB and ITU-T are seeking the assistance of committee and subgroup leaders as well as proposers of new work in order to more effectively achieve this goal of effective coordination at the technical level. When considering the advancement of proposals for new work or subjects for standardization, we encourage the proposer to consider the checklist of questions presented below and take the appropriate recommended actions.

Checklist of considerations for use by proposers of new work/subjects

1. Have you considered whether the proposed new work or subject may have technical aspects that are within the scopes of at least two of the three organizations (ISO, IEC and ITU)?
2. Have you thoroughly researched whether relevant and related standardization efforts are already underway in any of the three or all three organizations?
3. If you have identified any existing relevant and related standardization efforts in one or more of the three organizations, have you documented this related work in your proposal document?
4. If you have identified any existing relevant and related standardization efforts or groups in the three organizations, have you reached out to leaders of those efforts or groups and have you had any dialogue with them on how to work cooperatively together?
5. Do you feel the work you are about to undertake, may also be impacting the scope or work being done within the other organizations?
6. Have you considered the appropriate means to pursue coordination with existing efforts through committee-to-committee liaisons or joint working groups? Please see the suggestions for coordination presented below.
7. If the answer is yes, to any of the questions above, please document this in your proposal document so that this may be reviewed by the SPCG.

Suggestions for coordination

In order to identify existing relevant work/activities in any of three organizations, proposers or committees are recommended to review the new work item proposal lists circulated regularly by the three organizations.

If relevant work has been identified in either two of the three organizations (ISO, IEC and ITU-T), the concerned committee leaders may wish to consider a number of options for ensuring proper coordination of work, that includes but is not limited to:

- Ongoing correspondence among committee leaders, including sharing of documents and information on work programs
- Periodic coordination meetings among related committee leaders, facilitated by ISO, IEC and/or ITU-T staff
- Cross-representation of experts among the related committees as resources allow
- Establishment of official liaison representatives among committees in compliance with the ISO/IEC Directives and ITU-T rules of procedure to provide input and report back on relevant work
- Establishment of joint working groups in compliance with the ISO/IEC Directives and ITU-T rules of procedure to develop joint standards
- Co-location of committee meetings
- Before development of a standard (or other deliverable) ensure communication and feedback from involved committees of all three organizations, in order to avoid duplications, overlaps and/or contradictions.
- Joint and coordinated communication to the body of experts on the significance of communication.
- The possible area of overlap or conflict may be highlighted at the earliest to the respective secretariats, who will inform the other secretariats of such an occurrence
- The matter will be brought to attention of the SPCG,
- SPCG may provide guidance or suggest action on any of the coordination activities above
- Joint technical committees

SPCG welcomes feedback on experiences of coordination and collaboration, including on the different processes and approaches and whether they support or impede collaboration.