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| **TSAG** |
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| **Source:** | | | Chairman, Standardization Committee for Vocabulary | |
| **Title:** | | | Status report of SCV activities | |
| **Purpose:** | | | Action | |
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| **Keywords:** | CCT; SCV; terminology; vocabulary. |
| **Abstract:** | This document contains the report of activities of the Standardization Committee for Vocabulary in the period January to October 2021.  Action for TSAG: The SCV also seeks advice from TSAG on proposed wording to be sent to CWG-LANG on the use of inclusive language in ITU publications; see Annex 1 to this report. |

**1. Introduction**

[WTSA Resolution 67](http://www.itu.int/publ/T-RES-T.67-2008/en) (Johannesburg, 2008) established the Standardization Committee on Vocabulary (SCV), with responsibility for ensuring that the standardization of work on vocabulary within ITU-T shall be based on the proposals by the study groups in the English language. [WTSA Resolution 67](http://www.itu.int/pub/T-RES-T.67-2012/) (Rev. Dubai, 2012) continued SCV and was revised to more generally address **the use in ITU-T of the languages of the Union on an equal footing**. [WTSA Resolution 67](https://www.itu.int/pub/T-RES-T.67-2016) (Rev, Hammamet, 2016) maintains SCV and places further emphasis on a unified approach to terminology harmonization covering the whole of ITU. [Council Resolution 1386](https://www.itu.int/md/S17-CL-C-0127/en) of 26 May 2017 created the ITU Coordination Committee for Terminology (CCT), which is composed by SCV, the ITU-R Coordination Committee for Vocabulary (CCV) and two representatives of ITU-D.

The SCV is comprised by experts in the various official languages, members designated by interested administrations and other participants in the work of ITU-T, as well as the rapporteurs for vocabulary of the ITU-T study groups and relevant ITU staff. All SCV meetings are now held under the umbrella of the CCT, with participation of delegates from the three sectors of the ITU.

This document provides a report of the relevant activities since the January 2021 meeting of TSAG.

**2. CCT virtual meeting of 7 April 2021**

Twenty-two delegates from the ITU Sectors and four ITU staff participated in the 7 April meeting, which was led by Ms Rim Belhaj and Mr Christian Rissone in their capacities of Chairmen of the SCV and the CCV, respectively.

The discussion focused mainly on new terms and definitions being developed by ITU-T SG11 and SG16, on the definition for “Quasi error free”, proposed by ITU-R SG6, and on the use of inclusive language in standards. Regarding the use of inclusive language, it was highlighted that this subject was actually a cultural issue that should not be addressed only within the CCT, which is a technical group, but at a higher level where institutional linguistic policy could be discussed. It was decided that the questions that were received form TSAG in TSAG-LS41 ([SCV-TD141](https://www.itu.int/en/ITU-T/committees/scv/Documents/SCV-TD141.zip)) should be redrafted in more general terms, and be sent for advice to the Council Working Group on languages. This subject was further discussed in the September meeting of the CCT (see item 5 of this report).

The meeting report is contained in [SCV-TD145](https://www.itu.int/en/ITU-T/committees/scv/Documents/SCV-TD145.docx).

**3. CCT virtual meeting of 23 June 2021**

Nineteen delegates from the ITU Sectors and three ITU staff participated in the meeting, which was led by Ms Rim Belhaj and Mr Christian Rissone in their capacities of Chairmen of the SCV and the CCV, respectively.

The discussion focused mainly on new terms and definitions being developed by ITU-T SG2, SG9, SG16 and SG17, and ITU-R WP 5B. Several documents on the use of inclusive language in standards were also presented. The use of inclusive language in standards would be revisited at the September meeting (see item 5 of this report).

As many of the new definitions that have been proposed by many of the ITU-T study groups at the various meetings of the CCT do not follow the guidance provided in the Author’s guide, it was also decided that an SCV-only meeting be held on 13 July to address this issue.

The meeting report is contained in [SCV-TD155](https://www.itu.int/en/ITU-T/committees/scv/Documents/SCV-TD155.docx).

**4. SCV-only meeting of 6 July 2021**

Nine delegates from the ITU-T sector and eight ITU/TSB staff attended this SCV meeting, which was led by Ms Rim Belhaj in her capacity of Chairman of the SCV.

Based on the presentation given in [SCV-TD156](https://www.itu.int/en/ITU-T/committees/scv/Documents/SCV%20TD156.docx), the meeting focused on the drafting of new definitions in accordance with the guidance provided in the Author’s guide, and reached the conclusions contained in the meeting report, [SCV-TD157](https://www.itu.int/en/ITU-T/committees/scv/Documents/SCV-TD157.docx).

The suggestion to submit a proposal from SCV regarding WTSA Res. 67 was also brought up, and although the July 2020 meeting of the SCV ([SCV-TD125](https://www.itu.int/en/ITU-T/committees/scv/Documents/SCV-TD125.docx)) had already decided that it was not convenient to submit a concrete text proposal to TSAG as that would duplicate the proposals presented by the Member States, it was agreed that the issue would be addressed at the next meeting of the CCT.

**5. CCT virtual meeting of 8 September 2021**

Fifteen delegates from the ITU Sectors and four ITU staff participated in the meeting, which was led by Ms Rim Belhaj and Mr Christian Rissone in their capacities of Chairmen of the SCV and the CCV, respectively.

The discussion focused mainly on new terms and definitions being developed by ITU-T SG2, SG9 and SG11, the use of inclusive language, the translation of new terms and definitions into the other five languages of the Union, the improvement of the guidance for drafting definitions as provided in the Author’s guide, and a proposal on WTSA Resolution 67.

Regarding the use of inclusive language in ITU publications, document [SCV-TD161](https://www.itu.int/en/ITU-T/committees/scv/Documents/SCV-TD161.docx) contains a summary of all the documents received so far, and [SCV-TD162Rev1](https://www.itu.int/en/ITU-T/committees/scv/Documents/SCV-TD162Rev1.docx) contains a proposal with modified wording of the set of questions asked by TSAG in the January meeting (see [SCV-TD141](https://www.itu.int/en/ITU-T/committees/scv/Documents/SCV-TD141.zip)), which is to be sent to CWG-LANG.

The CCT would welcome advice from TSAG on the contents of [SCV-TD162Rev1](https://www.itu.int/en/ITU-T/committees/scv/Documents/SCV-TD162Rev1.docx)., which are also included as Annex 1 to this report.

The draft meeting report is contained in [SCV-TD163](https://www.itu.int/en/ITU-T/committees/scv/Documents/SCV-TD163.docx).

**6. Summary**

SCV continues to address its mission defined in [WTSA Res. 67](https://www.itu.int/pub/T-RES-T.67-2016) (Rev. Hammamet, 2016), with increased participation of all the ITU-T study groups.

SCV meetings are held under the umbrella of Coordination Committee for Terminology, which is composed by the SCV, the CCV and participants from ITU-D, thus increasing the collaboration among the three Sectors, and enhancing the efficiency for the harmonization of terminology.

The CCT continues working towards a more streamlined process for the harmonization of terminology across the three Sectors of the ITU, and is now seeking TSAG’s advice regarding a draft proposal that will be sent to the Council Working group on Languages on the use of inclusive language in ITU publications.

The next meeting of the CCT will take place on 12 January 2022.

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Annexes: 1

ANNEX 1

Draft proposed text on use of inclusive language in ITU to be sent by SCV to CWG-LANG

**Background**

The Telecommunication Standardization Advisory Group (TSAG) has brought to the attention of the CCT the decision of a Standards Development Organization (SDO) to preclude the use of non-inclusive language from future revisions of their standards, especially regarding the use of the terms master, slave, blacklist, whitelist and grey list.

TSAG additionally asks the CCT for advice on whether the use of inclusive language is applicable to ITU standards and other publications and if so, on the best approach to adopt inclusive terminology for past and future publications.

Considering that that the use of inclusive language in ITU is a cultural issue that should not be addressed only within the technical groups or the CCT, but at a higher level where institutional linguistic policy could be discussed, the CCT kindly asks for advice from CWG-LANG on the following:

1. Does the issue of using inclusive and neutral language apply to ITU standards and to other ITU publications?
2. In case of a positive answer to the above question,
   1. What would be a common approach for ITU to address the use of inclusive and neutral language in currently published and future standards and other publications?
   2. How should occurrences of possible non-inclusive terminology be handled in past ITU publications?
   3. How should referencing be done to external documents that do not use inclusive and neutral terminology whilst avoiding a terminology mismatch?
   4. How could a repository of harmonized inclusive and neutral terminology be created for usage across the entire ITU?
   5. Should a disclaimer be included in all ITU publications regarding the use of technical words that could be interpreted as non-inclusive? E.g. All terms used in the present publication are to be interpreted as inclusive and neutral [without any prejudice of race, gender, etc].

We are looking forward to receiving your guidance on the above.