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| **TSAG** | | |
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| **Source:** | | Chairman, Inter-Sector Coordination Group (ISCG) | | | |
| **Title:** | | Progress Report of the ISCG | | | |
| **Purpose:** | | Discussion | | | |
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| **Keywords:** | ISCG; inter-sector coordination group; |
| **Abstract:** | This document presents the report of the Inter-Sector Coordination Group (ISCG) on Issues of Mutual Interest. Last meeting of the ISCG was held on 1st September 2021. The ISCG was established jointly by the Radiocommunication Advisory Group (RAG), the Telecommunication Standardization Advisory Group (TSAG), and the Telecommunication Development Advisory Group (TDAG) to identifies subjects common to the three Sectors and the General Secretariat, as well as the necessary mechanisms to strengthen cooperation and joint activities among them, on issues of mutual interest. |

**Inter-Sector Coordination Group (ISCG)**

The [Inter-Sector Coordination Group (ISCG)](https://www.itu.int/en/general-secretariat/Pages/ISCG/default.aspx) on issues of mutual interest, which is composed by representatives of the Radiocommunication Advisory Group (RAG), the Telecommunication Standardization Advisory Group (TSAG) and the Telecommunication Development Advisory Group (TDAG), works to identify subjects common to the three Sectors and the General Secretariat, and mechanisms to enhance cooperation and collaboration in all Sectors on matters of mutual interest, in order to avoid duplication of effort and optimize the use of resources of the Union, in line with [Resolution 191 (Rev. Dubai, 2018)](https://www.itu.int/en/council/Documents/basic-texts/RES-191-E.pdf).

The ISCG considers current and new activities and their distribution among ITU-R, ITU-T and ITU-D for approval by the ITU Member States in accordance with the procedures for approval of new and revised Questions. It also considers the reports by the three Directors and the Inter-Sectoral Coordination Task Force (ISC-TF) on options for improving cooperation at the secretariat level to ensure that close coordination is maximized.

Since the last report presented to TSAG, the ISCG met once on 1st September 2021.

During the last meeting, the ISCG’s Secretariat presented the report on the implementation of PP Resolution 191 (Rev. Dubai, 2018) where the main updates are:

* a report of the ISC-TF, by themes, is now available in the [Intersectoral Coordination of Activities webpage](https://www.itu.int/en/general-secretariat/Pages/intersectoral-coordination.aspx), and can be access by any ITU member with a TIES Account;
* a new Conference Coordination Group (CCG) was created, within the ITU Secretariat, to improve cooperation, coordination, and harmonization in the preparation of the main conferences planned for 2022;
* the IS team informed that the Zoom platform has been integrated with the ITU’s registration, authentication, and access control system (CRM), ensuring global access by means of the ITU User Account. Consequently, ITU has started to use the Zoom platform for the Virtual Consultation of Councillors, for the ISCG meeting, as well as for the advisory groups’ meetings. BDT also informed that all its events were moved into Zoom; and TSB mentioned that all their work will be standardized to use one or at most two different platforms (Zoom and MyMeetings). Because of the number of events UTI-T has in parallel, MyMeetings will continue to be used since that platform does not require multiple licenses;
* the ISC-TF Focal Point for AI presented a report on the activities that are being coordinated and the terms of reference of the sub-group within the ISC-TF (see [ISCG/21-2/3-1](https://www.itu.int/en/general-secretariat/ties/ISCGDocumentLibrary/2nd%20Meeting%202021/ISCG-21-2-03-1-ETD%20AI.docx)).

The ISCG members continue to request to have access to the ISCG webpage from the three advisory groups’ websites in a harmonized way since the layout of the three websites is different. Also requested harmonizing the process to submit contributions which differs between the three Sectors.

Suggestions were also presented related to the use of automatic translation for documents. The ISC-TF Focal Point for Multilingualism will present a report to the next ISCG meeting.

The report also invited the membership to consider, within the preparations for PP-22, whether the documents related to the work of the ISCG should be reviewed and/or updated.

The ISCG Chairman suggested that the advisory groups and the regional groups should take the lead in the preparations for PP-22.

TSAG is invited to comment and propose a way forward on these themes.

Related to strengthening cooperation and joint activities, the ITU Secretariat presented document [ISCG/21-2/04-1](https://www.itu.int/en/general-secretariat/ties/ISCGDocumentLibrary/2nd%20Meeting%202021/ISCG-21-2-04-1-E-Mapping%20Tables.docx) containing the Mapping Tables updated with information received from the three sectors until 16 July 2021.

All mapping tables, including the mapping of resolutions for preparing the Plenipotentiary Conference were updated after the meeting and are available in the [ISCG webpage](https://www.itu.int/en/general-secretariat/Pages/ISCG/default.aspx).

The ISCG agreed that the actual inter-sector mapping will be performed by the ISCG Secretariat, with the assistance of the BDT, BR and TSB Counsellors, on the basis of the outputs from every Study Group, Working Party or Rapporteur.

TSAG is invited to share this information with the ITU-T Study Groups for them to submit any update to the ISCG Secretariat ([iscg@itu.int](mailto:iscg@itu.int)).

In the framework of the climate change pilot theme (<https://www.itu.int/climate>), the ITU Secretariat presented an information document with the latest developments on ITU’s internal work to become a greener organization (see [ISCG/21-2/INF-1](https://www.itu.int/en/general-secretariat/ties/ISCGDocumentLibrary/2nd%20Meeting%202021/ISCG-21-2-INF-1-Greening%20ITU.docx)).

Also the Focal Point for “Accessibility” shared a presentation on the work being coordinated within the ISC-TF (see [ISCG/21-2/04-2](https://www.itu.int/en/general-secretariat/ties/ISCGDocumentLibrary/2nd%20Meeting%202021/ISCG-21-2-04-2-Accessibility.pdf)), and a Liaison Statement was sent to ITU-T SG16 Q24/16 & Q26/16.

In order to develop the implementation of the ITU-wide accessibility strategy a budget line for accessibility will be needed (100k CHF/year). Since no decision was taken by C21/VCC, and this point was not addressed by the CWG-FHR in its September 2021 meeting, a request needs to be prepared for Council 2022.

The Focal Point also invited the membership to re-plenish the ICT Accessibility Fund.

The ISCG agreed to support the request for an accessibility budget line.

Among the themes proposed to be considered by the ISCG, there are:

* resource sharing implications of inter-sectoral activities;
* harmonizing the way to access and to share documents on intersectoral activities among the three Sectors, with Ties Account, independently of the members’ category and/or affiliation. The ISCG Secretariat would like to remind TSAG to inform all ITU-T Counsellors that documents related to intersectoral activities can be posted in the ISCG webpage and a link can be generated so all members will be able to access by means of their TIES Account, independently of the members’ category and/or affiliation;
* the RAG representative commented on a proposal done during the last RAG meeting on how to harmonize guidelines to indicate the main achievements/deliverables by the ITU-R and ITU-T Sectors to be addressed to ITU-D in support of their activities, on the topics which are of particular interest for developing countries;
* during the last TDAG meeting it was also proposed to have conformance and interoperability as a theme to be addressed by the ISCG.

The ISCG Chairman would like to invite all TSAG members to submit contributions on any topic they would like to be considered within the ISCG.

**Conclusion**

TSAG is invited to discuss this document and to present comments and proposals to the ISCG on the themes that were presented and on any other possible joint activity among all Sectors and/or bilaterally and on mechanisms to strengthen cooperation.

The next meeting of the ISCG will take place at the end of January or beginning of February 2022. The Secretary to coordinate and inform. Detailed information will be posted in the [ITU Events portal](https://www.itu.int/en/events/Pages/default.aspx).

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