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| **Title:** | Report for the ad hoc group on the ToR for a FG-DCC (C179) |
| **Purpose:** | Admin |
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| **Keywords:** | Report; Ad hoc Session; COVID19; certificates; |
| **Abstract:** | This document is the report for TSAG on the outcomes of the ad hoc group on the ToR for a FG-DCC (C179) established at the TSAG opening plenary (online, 25 October 2021). The AHG held two sessions and four possible ways forward were identified, without a clear majority preference. |

1. **Approval of this agenda**

The ad hoc group (AHG) was chaired by Mr Heung Youl Youm (Rep. of Korea). The agenda in [TD1127](https://www.itu.int/md/T17-TSAG-211025-TD-GEN-1127) was presented.

The proposed schedule for two AHG sessions in the Table 1 of Annex 1 in [TD1127](https://www.itu.int/md/T17-TSAG-211025-TD-GEN-1127) was reviewed. Confliction with another TSAG Ad hoc session on Thursday 28 Oct 2021was identified, this TSAG AHG meeting agreed to move its 2nd session anticipated to 11:00-12:30 on Wednesday 27 Oct 2021. Later other confliction of this scheduled 2nd session with a preparation meeting for 2nd ITU/WHO workshop on digital COVID-19 certificates with affects the AHG Chairman, secretary and some experts from relevant ITU-T SGs. Therefore the 2nd session of this AHG was shortened to 11:00-12:00.

Relevant documents in the Table 2 of Annex 1 in [TD1127](https://www.itu.int/md/T17-TSAG-211025-TD-GEN-1127) were presented for the ad hoc and no comments were received.

Final agenda is found in [TD1127-R1](https://www.itu.int/md/T17-TSAG-211025-TD-GEN-1127).

1. **Objective**

The objective of the session in clause 5 in [TD1127](https://www.itu.int/md/T17-TSAG-211025-TD-GEN-1127)-R1, “to agree with updated ToR for FG-DCC (C179)”, was presented.

The AHG participants agreed to include discussion of necessity of FG-DCC under item 7 in agenda in [TD1127](https://www.itu.int/md/T17-TSAG-211025-TD-GEN-1127)-R1 in addition to discussion of update of ToR for FG-DCC.

1. **Proposed ToR proposed by chairman**

[TD1126](https://www.itu.int/md/T17-TSAG-211025-TD-GEN-1126), Updated Terms of Reference of a new Focus Group on digital documentation of COVID-19 certificates based services (FG-DDCC) by AHG chairman, was presented to incorporate recommendations by SPCG in [TD1160](https://www.itu.int/md/T17-TSAG-211025-TD-GEN-1160) and updated ToR by WHO through e-mail to AHG Chairman, and comments raised at the TSAG plenary on Monday 25 October 2021.

1. **Discussion results**

**4.1 Necessity of FG**

The AHG sessions agreed that the subject proposed for FG is important and urgent, but could not agree on the modality to conduct this work in ITU-T.

Regarding the need for FG, diverse opinions were expressed:

Some members supported establishment of FG-DCC arguing the following:

* urgently study internationally interoperable certificates using decentralized identity (DID),
* promote global trust networks for international interoperable digital COVID certificates,
* promote interoperable solutions using different identity binding technologies for countries at different development level,
* suggest practical solution for interoperability of different certificate solutions, etc.
* establish a general framework/platform for digital certificates of other disease, not limited for COVID-19.
* provide a global forum for experts, regulators and SDOs from both ICT and health industry sectors to work together, and
* facilitate participation from developing countries.

Other members did not support establishment of FG-DCC arguing the following:

* lack of complete gap analysis of standards in many SDOs,
* no need for additional standardization,
* solutions are already implemented in many countries, regions and for sectors e.g., travel,
* FG would create confusion on interoperability with existing solutions in place,
* potential duplication with other group’s work or conflicting standards,
* too late to start FG, this world in COVID-19 cannot wait 18 months for its output,
* FG deliverables are not normative, etc.

In addition, some other members suggested alternatives such as: (1) establish a JCA, (2) establish a Collaboration on digital covid19 certificates, similar to [CITS](https://www.itu.int/en/ITU-T/extcoop/cits/Pages/default.aspx), (3) ask study groups to start standardization work. Regarding JCA, it was noted that JCA is primarily to maintain standardization roadmap to keep track of existing work in different SGs/SDOs but not to develop standards itself.

The AHG sessions did not reach consensus on either FG establishment or any specific alternative.

**4.2 Updates of ToR for FG**

The AHG did update some parts of the ToR for FG in [TD1126](https://www.itu.int/md/T17-TSAG-211025-TD-GEN-1126) and the update result was posted in [TD1126-R1](https://www.itu.int/md/T17-TSAG-211025-TD-GEN-1126) to reflect comments raised at the 2nd session.

It should be noted that the full text of the updated FG ToR was put into square brackets to reflect the lack of agreement of several members on the creation of the focus group itself.

1. **Way forward**

Based on the discussion result above, it is suggested by AHG Chairman to TSAG plenary to consider the following options:

Option 1: Establish this FG with TSAG as a parent group, with the ToR in [TD1126-R1](https://www.itu.int/md/T17-TSAG-211025-TD-GEN-1126) and a strong emphasis on gap analysis.

Option 2: Create *JCA on digital COVID19 certificates* under the auspices of TSAG with ToR in [TD1170](https://www.itu.int/md/T17-TSAG-211025-TD-GEN-1170).

Option 3: Establish *Collaboration on digital COVID19 certificates*, ToR similar to [CITS](https://www.itu.int/en/ITU-T/extcoop/cits/Pages/default.aspx) to be developed.

Option 4: Each relevant ITU-T SG to start relevant standardization work as soon as possible within their remit.

1. **Any Other Business**

None.

1. **Closing**

The first session was finished on 12:30 CEST on 26 October 2021 and the second session was completed on 11:37 CEST on 27 October 2021. The ad hoc Chairman thanked all participants for attending the session and providing valuable comments and suggestions.

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