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| ITU logo | INTERNATIONAL TELECOMMUNICATION UNION**TELECOMMUNICATIONSTANDARDIZATION SECTOR**STUDY PERIOD 2017-2020 | TSAG-TD1207 |
| **TSAG** |
| **Original: English** |
| **Question(s):** | N/A | Virtual, 6 January 2022 |
| **TD** |
| **Source:** | Chairman, IRM |
| **Title:** | IRM: Draft meeting report of the interregional meeting for preparation of WTSA-20 (virtual, 6 January 2022, 1300 – 1600 hours Geneva time) |
| **Purpose:** | Information |
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| **Keywords:** | Interregional meeting (IRM); report; |
| **Abstract:** | This TD holds the draft meeting report of the interregional meeting for preparation of WTSA-20 (virtual, 6 January 2022). |

**Action**: TSAG is invited to take note of this draft report.

# Opening of the meeting, IRM Chairman

The Interregional meeting (IRM) Chairman, Mr Bruce Gracie, also TSAG Chairman (Ericsson Canada), welcomed the participants to the fourth and final Interregional Meeting for preparation of WTSA-20, which was held on 6 January 2022. Mr Gracie was assisted by Prof. Dr Vladimir Minkin, TSAG Vice Chairman, who chaired agenda item 5 on WTSA Resolutions update, and by Mr Bilel Jamoussi, TSB, Chief of ITU-T Study Groups department.

Mr Gracie introduced[TD1221](https://www.itu.int/md/meetingdoc.asp?lang=en&parent=T17-TSAG-220110-TD-GEN-1221) which is the “Note to be read by the chairperson at the start of the meeting” and mentioned [TD1211](https://www.itu.int/md/meetingdoc.asp?lang=en&parent=T17-TSAG-220110-TD-GEN-1211) **“**Interactive Remote Participation Guidelines – Zoom Multilingual”.

**Annex 1** on this document lists the Contributions and the TDs that were considered by the meeting.

[TD1222](https://www.itu.int/md/T17-TSAG-220110-TD-GEN-1222/en) holds the final list of participants. In total, 206 participants attended the fourth and final virtual IRM. Details on the breakout numbers can be seen below.



**2 Welcoming remarks by the TSB Director**

The Director of TSB, Mr Chaesub Lee, provided his welcoming remarks, underlining the importance of the updates from each of the Regional Telecommunications Organizations of the status of the works from each region, noting the importance of forthcoming TSAG meeting to consider the results of this interregional meeting. The TSB Director expressed his wish to have a better understanding as this IRM is the last meeting and last chance for RTOs to share their respective contributions as WTSA-20 is approaching closely.

The TSB Director stated that the WTSA-20 is confirmed to take place in Geneva, 1 - 9 March 2022, physical event with support of remote participation.

The TSB Director added his availability to offer an update of the Covid 19 situation in Geneva, time permitting, before the end of the meeting.

# Approval of the agenda

[TD1220](https://www.itu.int/md/meetingdoc.asp?lang=en&parent=T17-TSAG-220110-TD-GEN-1220)-R1 holds the draft agenda for the interregional meeting for preparation of WTSA-20 (virtual, 6 January 2022; 1300-1600 hours Geneva time). The draft agenda was adopted with no changes.

1. **Regional Telecommunications Organizations updates**

**4.1 Asia-Pacific Telecommunity (APT)**

Mr Yoichi Maeda, Chairman of the APT Preparatory Group for WTSA-20, presented the current status for the preparation from APT Region and introduced contribution [C204](https://www.itu.int/md/T17-TSAG-C-0204) covering the twenty-nine APT common proposals for the WTSA. As not all focal point might be able to travel for Geneva for WTSA-20, he requested TSB to ensure that focal points can participate remotely in ad-hoc group or drafting sessions.

**4.2 African Telecommunication Union (ATU)**

Ms Meriem Slimani, ATU coordinator for standardization in WTSA-20 and ATU Regional Contact Point for the Conference Proposals Interface, presented contribution [C213](https://www.itu.int/md/T17-TSAG-C-0213) the current status of ATU preparations and anticipated that all the ACPs will be finalized and submitted soon to TSB for WTSA-20.

**4.3 European Conference of Postal and Telecommunications Administrations (CEPT)**

Mr Tobias Kaufmann Chairman of the CEPT Project Team ITU-T, verbally informed that no new European Common Propocals (ECPs) were prepared since the previous IRM meeting. Two additional CEPT meetings will take place before WTSA-20, namely the CEPT PT ITU-T meeting on 7 January 2022 as well as the meeting of CEPT Com-ITU (25-27 January 2022), to which he invited all colleagues to attend.

**4.4 Inter-American Telecommunication Commission (CITEL)**

Mr Greg Ratta, Vice-Chairperson of the PCC.I (Permanent Consultative Committee I – Telecommunications/ ICT) Working Group for the Preparation and follow-up of WTSA, WTDC and WCIT (WGCONF), presented [C212](https://www.itu.int/md/T17-TSAG-C-0212).

Mr Ratta informed that an additional Inter-American Proposal on MOD Resolution 29 will be submitted to TSB and he informed that the 9th Meeting of CITEL WGCONF additional meeting will take place on 21 January 2022.

**4.5 League of Arab States/ASTeam**

A brief intervention was made by Mr Ahmed Said but no contribution was submitted or presented by the League of Arab States/ASTeam to this IRM.

Mr Said informed that ASTEAM subgroups met since the last IRM and progress was made on a couple of Resolutions (Res.52, Res.87), a new project on AI and a new project on ICTs for pandemics. In terms of positions for ITU-T study groups management, LoS/AST proposed nominations for three Chair positions, TSAG, Study Group 3 and Study Group 20, as well as several nominations for Vice-Chairmen. AST is still working on their proposals, which will be submitted to WTSA-20 before end of January 2022.

* 1. **Regional Commonwealth in the Field of Communications (RCC)**

Mr Evgeny Tonkikh, RCC Regional Contact Point for the Conference Proposals Interface, introduced contribution [C211](https://www.itu.int/md/T17-TSAG-C-0211) **“**RCC Preparations for World Telecommunication Standardization Assembly (WTSA-20)”. Mr Tonkikh concluded the intervention mentioning the RCC various candidates for ITU-T positions in the next ITU-T study period. RCC will submit their proposals to WTSA-20 before end of January 2022.

It was clarified that in-kind contributions are addressed by Resolution 34; CWG-FHR is currently considering in-kind contributions.

Members highlighted the importance of streamlining Resolutions so as to off-load ITU Sector Resolutions on matters that is addressed by higher-level Resolutions such as from the Plenipotentiary Conference. An example is Resolution 35 (rev. Hammamet, 2016) where consensus is to suppress it in favour of Resolution 208 (Dubai, 2018).

1. **WTSA Resolution update**

**5.1** TheRapporteur of the TSAG RG-ResReview Mr Minkin introduced and presented [TD1224](https://www.itu.int/md/meetingdoc.asp?lang=en&parent=T17-TSAG-220110-TD-GEN-1224)- R2, which contains the collection of activities of the regional organizations in their preparation of WTSA-20 with a mapping onto the WTSA Resolutions and ITU-T A-Series Recommendations to TSAG Rapporteur groups. The Rapporteur invited all RTO representatives to review the document.

**5.2** [TD1223](https://www.itu.int/md/meetingdoc.asp?lang=en&parent=T17-TSAG-220110-TD-GEN-1223)contains a further update of the extract of the online contact sheet with the regional focal points and coordinators for WTSA-20.

Mr Minkin requested colleagues to look at the document so that it could be submitted to TSAG meeting next week.

Mr Gracie thanked Mr Minkin and for Mr Euchner for all the preparatory work.

The meeting understood the role and responsibility of focal points to assist in providing clarifications on the technical subject matter of a Resolution, and to coordinate and consult with their regional telecommunication organization during WTSA for building consensus. Focal points are expected to strictly represent their regional telecommunication organization, but should not express their personal views. It was also understood that focal points may not be authorized to negotiate positions prior to WTSA-20, and that not all focal points might be able to travel for Geneva for participating in WTSA-20.

The regional telecommunication organizations were invited to submit their updated lists of focal points for the Resolutions to TSB.

**6 Discussion (questions and comments) of proposals for WTSA Resolutions (that are not allocated to any TSAG Rapporteur Groups)**

**6.1** Mr Vladimir Minkinbriefly introduced [TD1273](https://www.itu.int/md/meetingdoc.asp?lang=en&parent=T17-TSAG-220110-TD-GEN-1273). This TD provided the contact/focal points for WTSA Resolution 40 “Regulatory aspects of the work of the ITU Telecommunication Standardization Sector”, and the proposals in a side-by-side view.

CITEL clarified that the proposed removal of “limited” under resolves 1 is due to the recognition that the situation of limited numbering and addressing resources no longer applies; and the provision is generalized.

Concerns were expressed on the proposals addressing “data protection”, “privacy”, and “protection of their personal data”, and “personal identifiable information”, as concept that was not well understood. The proposals with their connotations were felt to be very different, and fear expressed that such issues has already been discussed with great difficulties at former ITU conferences.

AST informed the meeting to be also working on a proposal to modify Resolution 40, and the elements of the proposed draft texts in the resolves were shared with the meeting

*resolves*1 that, when determining whether a Question or Recommendation has policy or regulatory aspects, study groups shall more generally consider possible topics such as:– the right of the public to correspond;– protection of telecommunication channels and installations;– use of the limited numbering and addressing resources including internationalized domain name (IDN), and country code top-level domain (ccTLD);– naming and identification;– secrecy and authenticity of telecommunications;– safety of life;

– practices applicable to competitive markets;

– misuse of numbering resources;

APT sought clarification from CEPT to understand the rational for adding “interconnection and interoperability;” in resolves.

The meeting observed many crucial issues and many issues remain to be resolved are in the proposals for the resolves.

The meeting expects WTSA-20 to be able to resolve issues and to find consensus. However, if WTSA-20 would not be able to find consensus, it could be agreeable not to make changes and not to insist on the proposals.

Time management is required during WTSA-20 to accommodate for the limited number of days that are available to reach consensus.

While the ITU rules of procedure would also allow voting as a means to make a decision in cases where no consensus could be found, the meeting was urged to avoid voting altogether during WTSA-20 and the anticipated conditions with remote participation.

**6.2** Mr Minkin briefly introduced [TD1274](https://www.itu.int/md/meetingdoc.asp?lang=en&parent=T17-TSAG-220110-TD-GEN-1274), which provides the contact/focal points for WTSA Resolution 54 “Creation of, and assistance to, regional groups”, and the proposals in a side-by-side view.

It was clarified the notion of “regional study groups” does not exist; instead, the term “regional groups of study groups” should be used.

The proposals by CITEL and CEPT were found be very similar; however, in general, many different proposals were identified.

Different views and concerns were expressed as whether TSAG should approve creation of regional groups for all study groups in a centralized manner (as motivated by Resolution 1) and for the sake of coordination between TSAG and study groups, or if such decisions should be made by the respective study groups as is the case presently, where study groups have the flexibility to hold regional groups. It is to be considered that the expertise at TSAG is not necessarily the same as in a study group. Some of the proposals were felt unnecessarily being too detailed. The notion of “full participation rights” was explained to reflect the opinion of the ITU legal affairs unit. Members were invited to take into account the results and findings by the TSAG Rapporteur Group on CPTRG; which was responding to a request from the 2018 Plenipotentiary Conference.

The meeting felt the proposals for modifications of Resolution 54 quite difficult.

The meeting encouraged the Resolution 54 focal point to continue discussion on above points.

**6.3 Mr Minkin** presented [TD1272](https://www.itu.int/md/meetingdoc.asp?lang=en&parent=T17-TSAG-220110-TD-GEN-1272), which provided the update of the contact/focal points for WTSA Resolution 55 “Promoting gender equality in ITU Telecommunication Standardization Sector activities”, and the proposals in a side-by-side view.

Members observed that the proposals are of general nature, and do not appear specific to the tasks of ITU-T, and it could be considered if the proposals would not better fit in PP Resolution 70 on gender mainstreaming, and to clarify which gender issues are specific to ITU-T?

**6.4** Mr Minkin introduced [TD1275-R1](https://www.itu.int/md/T17-TSAG-220110-TD-GEN-1275/en), which contained an updated list of the contact/focal points for WTSA Resolution 68 “Evolving role of industry in the ITU Telecommunication Standardization Sector”, and the proposals in a side-by-side view.

It was clarified that Res. 68 has evolved a lot over the years and many modifications have already been made; the CTO process is now well established. While the subject addressed by Resolution 68 is still of relevance, CITEL prefers to suppress Resolution 68 and in turn establish a new Resolution WTSA Resolution on “The importance of industry engagement in the work of the ITU Telecommunication Standardization Sector”. The meeting encouraged to consider proposed suppression of Resolution 68 together with the proposed addition of a new Resolution.

**7 Conclusions**

In order to conclude the fourth and final IRM, Mr Gracie proposed the following points for the consideration of all participants:
he invited the RCC and LoS/ASTEAM to submit their proposals/contribution not later than the end of January 2022. He reminded that the final deadline for member contributions is twenty-one days prior to WTSA-20 itself.

The IRM Chairmen also added how to continue the preparatory process from the last IRM to the Assembly. The objective for all members is to reach common understanding of the proposals.

The CITEL focal point for Resolution 54 intervened and invited other regional focal points to exchange ideas in order to reach a common understanding. The focal points of the Resolutions were invited to start or to continued the dialogue and discussion.

Mr Bruce continued reminding the participants the eventuality of no consensus which means no change (NOC). He mentioned the eventuality of voting which is a possibility foreseen by the rules. However he urged not to consider the use of voting namely for time consuming purposes, as the process may become very complicated.

The IRM Chairman thanked the regional representatives again for their presentations, as there are many proposals that need to be considered for the Assembly. Mr Gracie also thanked the TSAG Vice Chairmen for their progress reports on the WTSA-20 various resolutions that were presented at the meeting.

The IRM Chairman thanked in particular Mr Minkin and Mr Euchner for providing the compilation of activities in the regions with the mapping onto the WTSA Resolutions and ITU-T Recommendations, and with the cross-reference to the TSAG Rapporteur groups.

A representative requested TSB to update the document on remote participation for WTSA-20 to be presented at TSAG the following week (10 – 17 January 2022).

# 8 Any other business

The IRM Chairmen gave the floor to TSB Director who wished to provide an update on the situation of COVID-19 that was exchanged during a meeting with the management of the Study Groups. None of the ITU-T Study Groups chair expressed foreign restrictions to travel, however, the requirements at national level have kept and keep changing in terms of testing, quarantines and other requirements.

The TSB Director informed that the ITU security team has engaged with the Swiss authorities which so far have not prevented to organize WTSA-20.

The TSB Director once again affirmed that WTSA-20 will take place and will be maintained as set for the dates 1 – 9 March 2022.

The TSB Director asked focal point of RTOs to update of countries and regional situation of safety measurements and wish to share with TSB.

One representative asked for more clarifications so to have a clearer understanding between physical meeting with a remote participation and a virtual meeting. He then added more clarifications to be given in terms of participation as well as decision making, during WTSA-20.

The TSB Director indicated that there are no rules or grounds or provisions for hybrid meetings, and that the current provisions and rules do not allow remote participation to engage decision-making process when the WTSA Chairman will take the decision. Mr Lee pointed out that all other meetings (Committee, Working Group, ad hoc sessions, drafting sessions, meetings beyond the meeting scheduling, etc) are allowed remote participation to join the discussions.

The TSB Director added that all meetings at WTSA-20 will be supported by remote participation.

Another participant raised the point that all rules of procedures have to be carefully analysed and checked and invited the TSB to do so, taking into account the exceptional circumstances.

Another participant raised the issue of social events during WTSA-20 while another representative requested more information about the possible existing options taking into account the pandemic.

Mr Jamoussi (TSB) and the TSB Director further clarified that some requests for social events have already been received by TSB. Detailed information will be available as soon as time close.

# No other businesses were raised at this time.

# 9 Closure of the meeting

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| The IRM Chairman thanked all participants for the successful conclusion of this last interregional meeting, in particular he thanked all the representatives of the six regional organizations for their engagement, the focal points, the TSB Director, Mr Chaesub Lee, Mr Bilel Jamoussi, Mr Martin Euchner, Ms Lara Al Mnini, Ms Alexandra Gaspari, and TSB staff for their assistance in preparing this interregional meeting, the delegates, as well as the interpreters and the captioners for their work.Mr Gracie added that hopefully the IRM provided some valuable information to assist all Regions in continuing the preparations for the Assembly as we rapidly approach the dates of the Assembly. The IRM Chairman reminded that TSAG will begin at 1300 hours Geneva time on Monday morning 10 January 2022. |
| The interregional meeting was closed on 6 January 2022, at 1621 hours Geneva time.\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ |

**Annex 1 – List of documents**

All contributions and documents of the fourth interregional meeting for preparation of WTSA-20 are available at: <https://www.itu.int/en/ITU-T/wtsa20/irc>

**List of Contributions**

Contributions can be found [here](https://www.itu.int/md/meetingdoc.asp?lang=en&parent=T17-TSAG-220110-C&class=IRM) and below:

| **Contribution #, Source****Title** |
| --- |
| [C204](https://www.itu.int/md/T17-TSAG-C-0204): Asia-Pacific Telecommunity (APT)IRM: APT preparation towards WTSA-20 |
| [C211](https://www.itu.int/md/T17-TSAG-C-0211): Regional Commonwealth in the Field of Communications (RCC)IRM: RCC Preparations for World Telecommunication Standardization Assembly (WTSA-20) |
| [C212](https://www.itu.int/md/T17-TSAG-C-0212): Inter-American Telecommunication CommissionIRM: Status of preparations for WTSA-20 |
| [C213](https://www.itu.int/md/T17-TSAG-C-0213): African Telecommunications Union (ATU)IRM: Update on ATU preparation for the ITU WTSA-20 |

**List of Temporary Documents**

TDs can be found [here](https://www.itu.int/md/meetingdoc.asp?lang=en&parent=T17-TSAG-220110-TD&class=IRM) and below:

| **List of Temporary Documents, Source****Title** |
| --- |
| [TD1221](https://www.itu.int/md/T17-TSAG-220110-TD-GEN-1221/en): TSBIRM & TSAG Interactive Remote Participation Guidelines - Zoom |
| [TD1220](https://www.itu.int/md/meetingdoc.asp?lang=en&parent=T17-TSAG-220110-TD-GEN-1220)Rev1: Chairman, IRMIRM: draft agenda for the interregional meeting for preparation of WTSA-20 (virtual, 6 January 2022; 1300-1600 hours Geneva time) (Revision 1) |
| [TD1221](https://www.itu.int/md/meetingdoc.asp?lang=en&parent=T17-TSAG-220110-TD-GEN-1221): IRM ChairmanIRM: Note to be read by the chairperson at the start of the meeting |
| [TD1222](https://www.itu.int/md/meetingdoc.asp?lang=en&parent=T17-TSAG-220110-TD-GEN-1222): TSBIRM: Final list of participants |
| [TD1223](https://www.itu.int/md/meetingdoc.asp?lang=en&parent=T17-TSAG-220110-TD-GEN-1223): TSBIRM: Extract of the online contact sheet with the regional focal points and coordinators for WTSA-20 |
| [TD1224](https://www.itu.int/md/meetingdoc.asp?lang=en&parent=T17-TSAG-220110-TD-GEN-1224)Rev2: Rapporteur, TSAG RG-ResReviewIRM: Collection of activities of the regional organizations in their preparation of WTSA-20 with a mapping onto the WTSA Resolutions and ITU-T A-Series Recommendations to TSAG Rapporteur groups (Revision 2) |
| [TD1225](https://www.itu.int/md/meetingdoc.asp?lang=en&parent=T17-TSAG-220110-TD-GEN-1225): TSBSummary of the WTSA-20 preparation |
| [TD1272](https://www.itu.int/md/meetingdoc.asp?lang=en&parent=T17-TSAG-220110-TD-GEN-1272): TSAG Vice ChairmanIRM: WTSA Resolution 55 proposals side-by-side |
| [TD1273](https://www.itu.int/md/meetingdoc.asp?lang=en&parent=T17-TSAG-220110-TD-GEN-1273): TSAG Vice ChairmanIRM: WTSA Resolution 40 proposals side-by-side |
| [TD1274](https://www.itu.int/md/meetingdoc.asp?lang=en&parent=T17-TSAG-220110-TD-GEN-1274): TSAG Vice ChairmanIRM: WTSA Resolution 54 proposals side-by-side |
| [TD1275](https://www.itu.int/md/meetingdoc.asp?lang=en&parent=T17-TSAG-220110-TD-GEN-1275)Rev1: TSAG Vice ChairmanIRM: WTSA Resolution 68 proposals side-by-side (Revision 1) |

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