|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
|  | INTERNATIONAL TELECOMMUNICATION UNION**TELECOMMUNICATIONSTANDARDIZATION SECTOR**STUDY PERIOD 2022-2024 | TSAG-C068 |
| TSAG  |
| Original: English |
| **Question(s):** | N/A | Geneva, 22-26 January 2024 |
| **CONTRIBUTION** |
| **Source:** | Korea (Republic of), ETRI, KT |
| **Title:** | Request for extension of FG-MV lifetime to keep and enhance the leading role of ITU-T on global metaverse standardization |
| **Contact:** | Shin-Gak KANGETRIKorea (Rep. of) | Tel: + 82 42 860 6117E-mail: sgkang@etri.re.kr |
| **Contact:** | Hyungsoo KIMKT corp.Korea (Rep. of) | Tel: +82 10 6808 5199E-mail: hans.kim@iotct.net  |

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Abstract:** | This contribution proposes to extend the lifetime of FG-MV to keep the ITU-T’s initiative in its leading role in global standardization activities on metaverse and to strengthen the standardization work of ITU-T SGs before and after WTSA-24.  |

1. **Observation of ITU FG-MV activity results in 2023**

**Successful pre-standardization work on metaverse**

Since the establishment of ITU FG-MV in December 2022 by TSAG, FG-MV has produced remarkable achievements in 2023 through four regular FG-MV meetings and numerous e-meetings of WGs/TGs. FG-MV is currently comprised of 9 Working Groups and 19 Task Groups on specific area and task, and it has been actively developing deliverables on various aspects related to the metaverse. The scope of metaverse standardization of FG-MV covers a wider range of issues than any other SDO, including economic, regulatory, and sustainability issues.

Until the December 2023 FG-MV fourth meeting, FG-MV had processed a total of 358 input contributions, 124 administrative documents, and 22 incoming/outgoing Liaison Statements. As an output of FG-MV’s technical work, total 22 deliverables have been developed over nine months in 2023 and submitted to TSAG for further consideration. Additionally, it is expected that approximately 18 deliverables may be approved in the fifth FG-MV meeting in March 2024, in Queretaro, Mexico.

**Great participation from non-ITU members**

In particular, there was a lot of participation from non-ITU members in the standardization work of FG-MV and contributed greatly to the development of the deliverables through many good contributions and carrying out leadership roles on many issues. According to an analysis of the editors who participated in the development of the 22 deliverables approved by the FG-MV, 14 of 22 deliverables were participated by the non-ITU members. Also, 32 non-ITU members out of a total of 66 editors were actively involved in the development of the 22 deliverables. To summarize, total 64% of approved deliverables, and 48 % of editors are non-members, and we think that this is one of the most successful outcomes considering the goals of FG-MV, encouraging the participation from non-ITU members.

FG-MV is currently developing deliverables for 50 ongoing work items, so it is necessary to encourage the active participation of non-ITU members as well as ITU members so that these ongoing work items can be developed quickly as soon as possible. As those work items span a wide variety of study areas, it is necessary to continue studying them without slowing down.

**Secure leadership role of ITU-T on global metaverse standardization work**

Another important achievement of FG-MV is that the ITU-T's role and position in the international standardization of the metaverse has been greatly enhanced. ITU-T has secured the leadership in global standardization of the metaverse through successful FG-MV activities as mentioned above.

FG-MV finally approved the definition of metaverse for the first time at the global standardization organization level that all SDOs are striving for, and it is expected to be used as a common basis for global standardization activities on metaverse. In addition to this, FG-MV is the only group that deals with various issues related to the metaverse in terms of technical, social, regulatory, and economic aspects, and has developed a number of deliverables which can be used by different stakeholders.

ITU-T's global leadership in metaverse standardization, which has been achieved through FG-MV activities, should be kept until the ITU-T SG's standardization work on the metaverse is in full swing.

1. **Issues for rapid initiation of metaverse standardization activities by ITU-T SGs**

**Smooth transition of metaverse standardization activities of FG-MV and ITU-T SGs before and after WTSA-24**

ITU-T SGs are currently preparing for World Telecommunication Standards Assembly in 2024 (WTSA-24), and it seems that it will not be easy for the SGs to quickly take over FG-MV activities and outcomes, and to promote follow-up metaverse standardization activity after mid-2024.

Many SGs are scheduled to end their activities in mid-2024, and it will take a considerable amount of time before the first SG meeting is held in the new study period starting in 2025. In other words, it is expected that from the second half of 2024 to the first quarter of 2025, the standardization work of ITU-T SGs will be somewhat inactive. This is expected to cause a certain amount of suspension of standardization work by ITU-T until SG takes over the FG-MV activities and starts full-fledged metaverse standardization work. Therefore, it is necessary to ensure that the standardization activities of the ITU-T SG’s and the pre-standardization work of the FG-MV on metaverse are smoothly interconnected before and after WTSA-24, which corresponds to the transition period of the ITU-T study periods.

**Preparation for rapid start of metaverse standardization in ITU-T SGs**

There are concerns that metaverse standardization activities in ITU-T SGs will be limited due to FG-MV. Therefore, it is necessary to find ways to quickly promote metaverse standardization in ITU-T SGs.

To solve this problem, one way could be to immediately transfer the deliverables approved in FG-MV to the ITU-T SGs through TSAG so that the SG can quickly proceed with the development of Recommendations, Supplements, and Technical Report based on the deliverables, even during the FG-MV lifetime. This work method has been applied in other FG activities in the past and is considered as an effective way to speed up the metaverse standardization work in ITU-T SGs.

Another issue is the need to include metaverse-related topics in the scope of standardization work for the next study periods of each SG, being prepared for proposal to WTSA-24.

Changes to existing ToRs or proposals for establishing a new Rapporteur Groups currently being requested in each SG are related to the scope of standardization work which will be carried out in the next study periods when FG-MV activities end. Therefore, these proposals of each SG should be discussed and coordinated by TSAG based on the current structure and work scope of ITU-T SGs and submitted for approval in WTSA-24. We believe that it is an appropriate method in the transition period of the ITU-T study periods to actively promote standardization work on the metaverse in ITU-T. Through this approach, we expect that rapid development of metaverse standards can be performed in each SG while keeping the initiative and leadership role of ITU-T on the global standardization on metaverse.

1. **Proposals**

Considering the observation results of FG-MV activities and its achievements, it is proposed to request TSAG to extend the lifetime of FG-MV. More specifically, we propose to extend the lifetime of the FG-MV until one month before the first TSAG meeting in 2025, when the ITU-T’s next study period begins, so that the results of the FG-MV activities can be smoothly connected with the ITU-T SGs activities.

We also request to provide the deliverables approved by the FG-MV immediately to TSAG meetings, even during the FG-MV lifetime to facilitate the rapid start of the metaverse-related standardization work in the relevant ITU-T SGs.

Additionally, in order to address metaverse standardization issues in the next study period in SGs, we request that proposals such as ToR changes and establishment of new Rapporteur Groups proposed by each SG be discussed and adjusted in TSAG based on the current structure and work scope of ITU-T SGs so that they can be submitted to WTSA-24 for approval.

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_