SPCG – Standardization Programme Coordination Group

Report from the 17th SPCG meeting, Vienna/Austria – 2022-12-05 (1000-1615 hours CET)

1 Welcome and introductions

The SPCG Chair, Ms Amanda Richardson, opened the 17th SPCG meeting (with remote participation) and welcomed all participants. The meeting was kindly hosted by the Austrian Electrotechnical Association (OVE, IEC NC), and the meeting expressed its appreciation to Mr Christian Gabriel for the excellent facilities and service provided.

There were no changes to the composition of the SPCG members as contained in SPCG/01-v7.

Ms Gaëlle Martin-Cocher sent apologies and could not participate. The attendance list is provided in Annex A.

The meeting was assisted by the SPCG Secretary, Mr Martin Euchner (TSB).

2 Adoption of the agenda

The agenda was adopted as circulated in SPCG/138v2.

3 Report and actions from the 16th SPCG meeting (7 September 2022)

The meeting report in SPCG/135 from the 16th SPCG meeting (7 September 2022) was approved.

Participants reviewed the status of action items from previous SPCG meetings in SPCG/142.

AI (nth SPCG-#)	Actions from 11th, 12th, 13th, 14th, 15th, and 16th SPCG meetings	Owners
11-03	Provide regular updates on SPCG to WSC as requested and in line with the assigned activities **Status: Ongoing.**	Chair
11-04	Members to review the follow-up to recommendations listed in SPCG/08 on a 6-month basis **Status: Ongoing.**	Secretary
12-03	The SPCG agreed for the SPCG leadership team to prepare a written response to J-SCTF for their raised questions along the lines of the views expressed during the meeting **Status: Ongoing.**	SPCG leadership
13-03	SPCG COMMs to consider how to communicate the landscape document to the technical communities? How do technical communities get access of the landscape document for their regular usage? To solicit comments (completeness?) on the landscape document. **Status: Ongoing**	SPCG COMMs
13-07	SPCG Secretariat to organize a virtual meeting with leadership teams of ISO/IEC JTC1/SC 42, ITU-T SG13, and ITU-T SG16 for coordination in SPCG pilot field on AI/ML, and to report back to the next SPCG meeting.	SPCG Secretariat

	Status: In planning. See agenda item 5.	
14-04	Secretaries to consult with the AI/ML leadership on their needs and desired value-add for the coordination on AI/ML, on the AI/ML classification, and the requirement specification for an IT and communication platform for the AI/ML community pilot. **Status: Deferred for action to after the SPCG workshop.**	Secretaries
14-06	A small team (Mr Vimal Mahendru, Mr Steven Cornish, Mr Martin Euchner) to draft a short paper (1-pager) elaborating on how SPCG could consider the systems approach. **Status: On hold (not of priority) pending AI 14-05.**	Mr Vimal Mahendru, Mr Steven Cornish, Mr Martin Euchner
15-02	The joint ISO and IEC smart initiative to provide a presentation on the status of smart standards activity to the next SPCG meeting. **Status: Done - session on 29 September 2022 took place.**	Secretariat
15-03	ITU-T to translate the written material of the video movie into the six official ITU languages (pending availability of budget). **Status: on hold – awaiting finalization of the material**	Martin Euchner
16-01	SPCG members were invited to review the landscape document in SPCG/125 and to provide feedback	SPCG members
16-02	SPCG leadership to provide information in advance of 17th SPCG meeting next for a wider discussion on the SPCG KPIs (ref Annex 1 of the SPCG Guidance document) **Status: See presentation in SPCG-141.**	SPCG leadership
16-03	ISO TMB, IEC SMB and ITU-TSAG Secretaries are requested to provide the relevant information such as on the Board's reaction or decision of a new field and SPCG recommendation to the SPCG secretariat, for inclusion into the SPCG excel sheet (SPCG/8).	SPCG secretaries
16-04	SPCG Secretary to amend the SPCG guidance document to describe the SPCG follow-up process of the Board's reaction. **Status: Done.**	SPCG Secretary
16-05	SPCG Secretariat to double-check with the TMB Secretariat to clarify the situation of the proposed new work item to ISO/TMB from Denmark on a Management system for UN Sustainable Development Goals. **Status: Done. Proposal was received in SPCG/132 for review.**	SPCG Secretary
16-06	SPCG secretary to send SPCG/125,and SPCG-126 to the WSC web-page. **Status: Done.**	SPCG Secretary
16-07	SPCG leadership (Chair, Secretary, Secretaries of ISO TMB and IEC SMB) to organize a meeting with the leadership of the ISO, IEC, ITU-T core AI technical groups to discuss various questions (such as coordination problem, effectiveness, information sharing, platform/mechanism etc). Status: **Deferred for action to after the SPCG WS.**	SPCG Leadership
16-08	SPCG members to liaise and consult with their relevant stakeholders on AI or AI community and feed back to the SPCG Secretary. Status: **Ongoing for the members.**	SPCG members

16-09	Develop questions (such as coordination problem, effectiveness, information sharing, platform/mechanism etc) for AI leadership meeting. **Deferred for action to after the SPCG WS.**	SPCG Chair, SPCG Secretary
16-10	Mr Christian Gabriel shall be included in the WS steering conf call on 3 October 2022, which would cover a) the briefing for the J-SCTF, and b) continued WS preparation. **Status: Done.**	SPCG Secretary
16-11	Circulate the rules of procedure to the SPCG members. **Status: Done.**	SPCG Secretary
16-12	Secretaries to consult with each other until end of October 2022 concerning expression of interest for the next SPCG secretariat, and to inform the SPCG Chair and SPCG Secretary. **Status: Done.**	Secretaries
16-13	SPCG members to consider the nomination of SPCG member to the role of SPCG Chair and to inform the SPCG Chair and SPCG Secretary. **Status: Done. Call for nomination was issued.**	SPCG members
16-14	Resolve the exact timing of the 17 SPCG meeting vis-à-vis the timing of the workshop. **Status: Done.**	SPCG Chair, WS Steering Team Chair, SPCG Secretary
16-15	SPCG members are invited to propose agenda items for the 17th SPCG agenda **Status: No inputs received.**	SPCG members
16-16	Rough planning of the 18th SPCG meeting in 2023 will be done off-line. **Status: Will be done during the Vienna meeting.**	SPCG Chair, SPCG Secretary

Action items 15-02, 16-02, 16-04, 16-05, 16-06, 16-10, 16-11, 16-12, 16-13, and 16-14 were closed.

4 Election of next SPCG Chair; Next SPCG Secretariat

According to the SPCG rules and procedures and rotational principle of the SPCG leadership, the SPCG meeting unanimously elected (by acclamation) Mr Christian Gabriel (IEC/SMB, OVE) as the next SPCG Chair for the period 2023-2024; to succeed SPCG Chair Ms Amanda Richardson (ISO/TMB, BSI) Chair (from 2019-2022) who came to end of her second term of office.

The meeting thanked Ms Amanda Richardson for her excellent leadership as SPCG Chair over the last four years.

Ms Mikaela Sampson (ISO CS) will take over the SPCG Secretariat from Mr Martin Euchner (TSB) for the period 2023-2024.

The meeting thanked Mr Martin Euchner for his excellent SPCG Secretariat service.

Action 17-01: Organize hand-over for the SPCG Secretariat

5 Update of SPCG response to recent proposals for new fields of activities

Participants reviewed the list of recent and current proposals for new fields of activity as provided by IEC, ISO, and ITU-T in document SPCG/8-v7.10.

Since the 16th SPCG meeting, seven new proposals were received in:

- SPCG/132: ISO/TMB (Danish Standards Foundation) proposal for a new ISO PC on Management System for UN Sustainable development goals – Requirements for any organization
- SPCG/134: ISO/TMB (AFNOR) proposal for a new ISO International Workshop Agreement (IWA) on Crystal, crystal glass and lead crystal glass for tableware, containers, giftware, jewellery, home decor, decorative components, furniture and luminaries - Specifications and test methods
- SPCG/135: IEC/SMB (from Chinese NC) proposal for SEG on Metaverse
- SPCG/136: ITU-T TSAG (from SG16) proposal for new ITU-T Focus Group on the "metaverse/immersive virtual universe"
- SPCG/137: ISO/TMB (from INSO) proposal for new ISO TC on Dust and dust storms
- SPCG/139: ITU/TSAG (from Chinese Members) proposal new ITU-T Joint Coordination Activity on Quantum Key Distribution Network (JCA-QKDN)
- SPCG/140: ITU/TSAG (from ITU-T SG13) proposal for new Question 10/13 on Future networks coordination

for which the SPCG (unanimously) approved two recommendations:

- SPCG-145: SPCG Recommendation on two “metaverse” proposals to IEC/SMB, ISO/TMB, ITU-T/TSAG
- SPCG-146: SPCG Recommendation on ISO/TMB (from INSO) proposal for new ISO TC on dust and dust storms. This recommendation is only of interest to ISO and IEC.

Two very recent new proposals from TSAG (ITU-T JCA-QKDN; and new Question 10/13 on Future networks coordination) are still under ongoing review and consultation. The meeting was informed that the proposed new Question 10/13 is of interest also to ISO and IEC, and that the ITU-T JCA-QKDN proposal is of interest to ISO/IEC JTC1/SC 27, and review comments were announced to be submitted to the SPCG.

Action 17-02: The SPCG landscape is to be updated to reflect the metaverse groups.

Action 17-03: ISO/TMB will send a request to IEC/SMB for IEC to join the joint ISO/IEC Standardization Evaluation Group (JSEG) on metaverse (pending the revised ISO and IEC Directives by JDMT).

6 IEC-ISO-ITU-T Workshop (“Bridging the coordination and collaboration gap”), 24 January 2023

Mr Nelson Al Assal Filho, Chairman of the workshop steering team, presented SPCG/144, which provides an update on the activities by the workshop steering team in their three preparatory conference calls, and on status of the workshop planning and the results achieved so far.

The SPCG reviewed the initial responses on the pre-workshop online survey monkey results (in SPCG/143) from interested WS participants

Additional feedback was raised to the meeting, such as from SPCG members’ consultations, concerning

- ideas to revise the title in a more positive sense;
- consider and digest the results (and further results) of the survey monkey; and that some questions in the survey monkey were felt being too specific; while also recognizing an overall fatigue of members to engage much in surveys;

- the need to re-structure the WS programme/draft agenda to not imply any hierarchies of groups;
- to give more (+15' additional) time to the SPCG presentation; and to re-use some slide material from the last ISO GA;
- more concrete planning of the "break-out sessions";
- to be cautious on drawing conclusions during the workshop;
- consider feedback on the planned video messages from the SDO leaders (or Board Chairs) and overall objectives on highlighting the importance of coordination;
- the need for more promotional activities; such as follow-up announcement/Circulars of the workshop to NBs, NCs; and to relevant regional organizations;
- to engage the COMMs teams.

The SPCG workshop steering team will take on-board those action points for the further preparation of the workshop.

Action 17-04: The SPCG workshop steering team to address the comments and feedback in the further planning and organization of the workshop.

7 Key Performance Indicators (KPIs) for effective coordination

The meeting discussed SPCG/141, which provides information on the nine SPCG KPIs, and some further thoughts on KPIs.

The meeting concluded

- The first four KPIs measure coordination on proposed new fields (IEC or ISO TCs, ITU-T SGs, ITU-T FGs, ISO IWAs, ISO SAGs, IEC SEGs) are practically implemented and are quantitatively measurable;
- KPIs #1 and #2 should be kept; but are not considered as a real KPI of the performance o the SPCG;
- KPI #3 should be split to have a differentiated measurement on the coordination for technical groups (TCs, SGs etc) vs strategic groups (SAGs, SEGs, FGs);
- KPI #4 may benefit from some amendments or clarifications to reflect the situation when Boards rejected a proposal (but not the SPCG recommendation);
- KPIs #5 – #9 are discarded as they were found being too difficult to be feasibly implementable;
- A new KPI is to be developed to measure the further impact of the Board's decisions (and resulting coordination results) upon the SPCG recommendations;
- A challenge remains for the SPCG to develop some outcome-based KPIs using a focussed approach, and to measure outreach and promotion activities of the SPCG to the ISO+IEC Technical Committees, and ITU-T study groups.

Action 17-05: SPCG members and SPCG leadership to revise existing KPIs and develop new suitable KPIs.

8 Brainstorming on future SPCG work priorities, objectives

A brainstorming session was organized to yield new ideas from inputs to the future SPCG work priorities and objectives. The SPCG Chair and Secretary input seven topics to the brainstorming:

Brainstorming topic #1.1

- Organizing outreach of SPCG (to TCs/SGs leadership) with prepared content:
  - How to approach fields for coordination
  - How to master the 60+ fields of overlap in the SPCG landscape?
    Do we need a master plan for coordination?
  - AI approach and lessons learnt
  - Which field next?
  - Which "service"/guidance could SPCG provide to TCs/SGs?
    (or can SPCG interact only directly with the Boards)?
  - How could we encourage/support spin-off of new joint technical coordination groups (such as J-SCTF) in other fields?
    (when/where so necessary)?

Brainstorming topic #1.2

- Updating the SPCG COMMs plan:
  - Overhaul/simplification/adaptation…?
  - Finding a more visible place for the COMMs plan (than annexed to the SPCG guidance document)?
  - Ideas for improved communication initiatives (films etc.)

Brainstorming topic 1.3

- SPCG workshop programme:
  - What are the SPCG KPIs?
    - Engagement and outreach – what does success look like?
  - Collect positive experiences, success stories of SPCG proposed coordination
  - Should we have criteria or a (rough) understanding for an assessment?
  - Consider planning for some follow-up SPCG workshops
  - General coordination problems

Brainstorming topic 2.1.1

Lessons learnt

- Improvements to drafting SPCG recommendations
  - Sometimes very challenging, tight time-constraints, short notice
  - What to do (Secretariat, SPCG Chair, SPCG members) if there is too little (or no time) for review or consultations?
  - What are our experiences on conducting internal consultations?
  - How to proposing clear(er) recommendations?
  - Follow up on Boards actions on SPCG recommendations
  - What could be the possible implications for the SPCG?

Brainstorming topic 2.1.2

- Is the SPCG approach for consultation on SEGs and SAGs effective?
- How could SPCG handle any identified interests on strategic coordination matters (SAGs, SEGs)

- How could the SDO Secretariats collaborate/coordinate on topics of common interest? (positive example: gender responsive standards initiatives)

Brainstorming topic 3

- Other ideas, objectives, tasks, priorities?

Brainstorming topic #4

- Next steps – follow up to brainstorming?
  - Give it to the SPCG leadership to consolidate, distill towards actions?
  - Create subgroup to discuss matters further?
  - Invite contributions from SPCG members?

Three break-out groups (two physical, one virtual) met and produced many new ideas and suggestions for improvements.

8.1) Results of break-out group 1 (Rapporteur: Mr Christian Gabriel)

- On Outreach and engagement:
  - Communication about advertising role of SPCG;
  - SPCG to stay transparent; promote SPCG website;
  - SPCG to send "political" message to outer world: we do the job;
  - To involve the TOs/Counsellors to spread the message, and yield quicker updates to the TCs;
  - Use social media via COMMs teams; organize series of workshops;
- On Lessons learnt, how to improve
  - Check sustainability of SPCG recommendations at least every six months;
  - Use modern tools (e.g. Trello board, but not excel sheets)
  - Positive finding/experience: SPCG can be solution-oriented on collaboration among the three SDOs;
  - Need to clarify scope of SPCG;
- On other matters
  - To promote SPCG on an international level;
  - Revive SPCG F2F meetings;
  - Address/include new members of the SPCG;
  - "fixed" agenda and structuring;
  - Have executive summary right after the SPCG meeting.

8.2) Results of break-out group 2 (Rapporteur: Ms Atsuko Saruhashi)

- On Outreach and engagement:
  - For the proposed new fields of activities:
    - More information is required on proposal to analyze, not enough information is available;
      to have additional for more information on technical committees. Useful to check.
    - First analysis and additional information from Secretariat will help! (e.g. an initial/preliminary analysis)
    - Use NSB to reach out/contact Chairs

- How to engage
    - Landscape docs, can we invite experts to establish **consultative groups** to coordinate among themselves?
    - Extension of SPCG, engage more TC SC/technical community. Contact and reach out to leadership.
    - Do not limit the members in SPCG, expand
    - Landscape document can start the ball rolling.
    - Experts or Technical community needs to update it. Technical community can make changes! Let them to change.
    - So many surveys….by secretariat. Technical community has limited time and budget.
    - Resources are constraints!
- WSC is too high level to communicate with TC communities
- How to increase more interests?
- Not involve WSC more but attract the technical communities.
- SPCG representatives from Boards, TMB has SAG and SMB has SEG but results are kind of similar. Consultative Group under SAG,

Survey NSB can contact Chairs…

- On Lessons learnt / how can we improve
    - There are cross-cutting topics (example: smart farming) underway in all three SDOs that raise coordination needs, and which give opportunities for collaboration; SPCG to build suitable partnerships among relevant groups;
    - Have a landscape document on smart farming/digital agriculture or bio digital. Food production chain from even before farm to forks, collect date.
    - JSEG or JSAG or FG not jump yet to recommend point out organization to do. They can propose, common topic exists and how to approach but form will be discussed by Boards.
    - Improve SPCG communication; promote SPCG towards NCs, NBs to better involve them in the work;
    - Outcomes of strategic groups could be relevant to other groups in the SDOs; ongoing need for SPCG recommendations to the Boards.

8.3) Results of (virtual) break-out group 3 (Rapporteur: Mr Franck Lebeugle)

- Who are we talking to? Target audience
    - Should we talk to the TCs or to the Boards?
    - A more regular communication (quarterly?) by SPCG with DCOMM departments (not only towards our “usual” targets/TC/SDOs) and could be part of SMB and TMB communiques
    - A “60sec pitch” could be made available of what SPCG is doing (on website and social networks)
- Our outreach: today, very “dry” SPCG website, giving links to the other pages in SDOs
    - have we got enough information on our SPCG website? Make more practical areas on the site to develop concretely coordination analysis
    - More visibility on SDO sites (no link to SPCG on IEC site for example)

  - SPCG web page should be arranged under TMB, SMB or ITU-T web page
- Which "service"/guidance could SPCG provide to TCs/SGs? (or can SPCG interact only directly with the Boards)?
  - Not mandatory to get the Boards as an intermediate systematically, especially to give generic guidance
  - Difficult to coordinate on precise items without the Boards
  - We do not have a feedback mechanism to be warned about positive cooperation works between TCs (e.g. smart cities)
  - We should improve our "coordination role" understanding towards all the three Boards
  - Discussion about next step: when mature enough (1 or 2 years?), how can SPCG solve more coordination problems?
- For existing TCs, is there an example of a scope we managed to change to reduce overlap? Certainly none.
- We are not the Boards, but we could give recommendations to the Boards in solving problems, based on our positive experiences.

  We are a tool that the Boards can use but we cannot act on a standalone manner. But the boards can act on a "silo way".
  - SPCG does and will not have a decision mandate but can give recommendations to boards (for example joint Boards meeting)
  - SPCG is more a "control tower" to detect overlap/coordination need and should be identified to be the right place for "warnings".
- Today, we are missing a process to do so!
  a) To receive inputs from TCs (we do not plan to be active in the 60+ fields)
  b) Even we have inputs, when receiving inputs from TC, how to handle with boards?
- We should extend SPCG communication to SEG/SAG/IWA quickly to show SPCG role (they are not coming from TC!) for new areas/activities: that is why we exist!

Action 17-06: The SPCG leadership (and/or SPCG) will be post-processing the outputs from the brainstorming session and make them actionable.

9 Next meetings

Per year, one F2F meeting is desired, and one or two virtual SPCG meetings.

Action 17-07: The new SPCG leadership will propose a plan for the next SPCG meetings in 2023, and launch a doodle for the date of the next SPCG meeting.

10 Any other business

Mr Vimal Mahendru and Mr Steven Cornish indicated to be stepping-down and to take new career paths. The meeting thanked them for their engagement and contributions to the SPCG.

11 Close of meeting

The Chair thanked all members for their active participation during the meeting and closed the meeting.

Annex A – Participants

Chair: Ms Amanda Richardson (ISO/TMB)
Secretary: Mr Martin Euchner (ITU-T/TSB)

IEC SMB representatives

Mr Gilles Thonet – SMB Secretary
Mr Christian Gabriel
Ms Lynne Gibbens (remote)
Mr Vimal Mahendru (remote)
Mr Ivano Visintainer
Mr Liang Zhang (remote)

ISO TMB representatives

Mr Antoine Morin – TMB Secretary
Mr Nelson Filho Al Assal (remote)
Mr Steven Cornish
Mr Franck Lebeugle (remote)
Ms Atsuko Saruhashi

ITU TSAG representatives

Mr Per Fröjdh
Mr Ajit Jillavenkatesa (remote)
Ms Miho Naganuma (remote)

Invited:

Ms Mikaela Sampson (ISO CS)

Annex B – Action items

#	Actions from the 17th meeting	Owners
17-01	Organize hand-over for the SPCG Secretariat,	SPCG Secretariat, SPCG Chair
17-02	The SPCG landscape is to be updated to reflect the metaverse groups	SPCG Secretariat
17-03	ISO/TMB will send a request to IEC/SMB for IEC to join the joint ISO/IEC Standardization Evaluation Group (JSEG) on metaverse (pending approval of the revised joint ISO and IEC Directives by JDMT).	Mr Antoine Morin
17-04	The SPCG workshop steering team to address the comments and feedback in the further planning and organization of the workshop	SPCG workshop steering team
17-05	SPCG members and SPCG leadership to revise existing KPIs and develop new suitable KPIs	SPCG members, SPCG leadership
17-06	The SPCG leadership will be post-processing the outputs from the brainstorming session and make them actionable	SPCG leadership
17-07	The new SPCG leadership will propose a plan for the next SPCG meetings in 2023, and launch a doodle for the date of the next SPCG meeting.	SPCG leadership

Appendix – Photos from the meeting, SPCG delegates, and social event

2022
Nelson Al Assal Filho

Franck Lebeugle

Vimal Mahendru

Lynne Gibbens

Liang ZHANG

SPC...