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| A black and white logo  Description automatically generated with low confidence | INTERNATIONAL TELECOMMUNICATION UNION  **TELECOMMUNICATION STANDARDIZATION SECTOR**  STUDY PERIOD 2022-2024 | | | **TSAG-TD254** | |
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| **TD** | | | | | |
| **Source:** | | | TSB | | |
| **Title:** | | | Outcome of the Global Standards Collaboration (GSC-23) meeting, 26-27 April 2023 | | |
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| **Abstract:** | This TD provides the outcome of the 2023 Global Standards Collaboration (GSC-23) meeting that took place from 26 to 27 April 2023 in London, United Kingdom. |

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

The 23rd meeting of the Global Standards Collaboration (GSC), a high‐level gathering of the world’s leading information and communication technologies (ICT) standards organizations, took place from 26‐27 April 2023, hosted by ETSI in London, United Kingdom.

Sustainability was the focus of a high-level meeting of the world’s leading information and communication technologies (ICT) standards bodies. The 23rd meeting of the Global Standards Collaboration (GSC) was hosted by ETSI, in London, 26-27 April 2023. Three sessions were moderated in a workshop format and included interactive discussions.

The first session addressed the value of global standards in a geopolitical context. All participants supported the relevance of global technical standards and stressed the importance of raising awareness and appreciation for them, especially among governmental and societal stakeholders. The session also addressed Participating Standards Organizations (PSO) operational aspects including digital transformation and the benefits of making and providing ICT standards digitally, improving the use of digital tools for virtual meetings, as well as their contribution to the sustainability of the standards-making process.

The second session showed that global standards are key for the convergence of ICT and vertical industries, enabling the 17 UN Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). The panel highlighted the achievements and challenges of ICT standards enabling SDGs, and how PSOs closely cooperate to converge ICT and vertical industries. The last session covered how ICT standards can support the metaverse and extended reality to improve human experience and industrial applications.

The participating organizations underlined the importance of global collaboration across the entire standardisation lifecycle, to develop the best standards for all, noting that ICT standards impact nearly eight billion people around the world. They agreed on the value of addressing current and emerging challenges effectively as a global community, whenever possible.

The ITU-T delegation at WSC-23 comprised Mr Seizo Onoe (Head of Delegation, Director of the ITU Telecommunication Standardization Bureau), Mr Bilel Jamoussi (Deputy Head of Delegation, Chief of ITU-T Study Groups Department), Mr Phil Rushton (ITU-T SG2 Chairman), Mr Dominique Wurges (ITU-T SG5 Chairman), and Mr Shin-Gak Kang (ITU-T FG-MV Chairman).

For further information on GSC-23 and past GSC meetings, please consult <https://www.itu.int/en/ITU-T/gsc/Pages/meetings.aspx>

The GSC-24 meeting will be held alongside the 3GPP PCG, which is expected to take place in April 2025.

The GSC-23 Communiqué is available at: <https://www.etsi.org/newsroom/press-releases/2225-global-standards-collaboration-meeting-for-a-more-sustainable-safer-world>

**GSC 23 – Takeaways:**

**Session 1A: Value of Global Standards in the environment of global geopolitical fragmentation**

The PSOs presented

* Some examples highlighting the value of global standards
* Their experience on how to address national / regional needs with global standards

There was consensus amongst the participants about

* the value of global standards for economy and society.
* the importance of raising awareness and appreciation for global standards, especially among governmental and societal stakeholders
* the need to better inform and educate about standards and its values

Some potential actions

* create common initiatives (e.g. a document stating the value of global technical standards) to achieve a bigger impact together (”same messages”)
* create and raise awareness and appreciation for global technical standards, especially with governmental and societal stakeholders
* potential joined PSO action for COP28

**Session 1B: Digital Transformation**

Summary

* Digitalization is rapidly changing the way we live, work and interact with each other.
* The session explored how digital transformation is influencing the development and distribution of international standards.
* Participants shared their experiences and those of their organizations.
* The discussion was engaging and interactive, with the audience challenging existing paradigms and sharing their digital transformation journeys.
* The panelists agreed that effective digital transformation requires an open mindset (“embrace change”), should facilitate personal connection, requires to break down silos and needs piloting of new technologies to evaluate the potentials and to limit unintended consequences.

Call to Action

* The session concluded with a call to action, urging entities to collaborate on digital transformation projects to be able to create interfaces between the tools developed and to leverage digital technology's potential to drive innovation, efficiency, and growth.
* Keeping pace with digital transformation is critical to creating a better future.

**Session 2: ICT Standards Enabling Global Sustainability Goals**

Summary

* We take the issue seriously!
* Impact on personal level, economic level, business models, …
* ICT can help reduce the carbon footprint of verticals.
* Need for standardised methods to measure (also to support legislation).
* Work ongoing but can be aligned even better to avoid overlap and gaps.
* ICT has brought socio-economic development and will continue doing so
* Trade-offs need to be addressed, we need to look at the full picture
* Systematic approach and mapping can help
* Enable consumers to make sustainable choices (we are humans!)

Call to Action

* We have to get out of our comfort zone!
* Integrate more with the verticals to show the benefits of using ICT.
* Collaborate earlier.

**Session 3: Technical Standards to Support Metaverse/XR**

Summary

* Common definitions can help, but maybe one-size-does-not-fit-all
* Different types (consumer, industrial, business/e-commerce, governmental, …) of metaverse and more than one metaverse of the different types as well as different levels of Metaverse
* Interoperability between the different metaverses required (e.g. common avatars across the metaverses)
* Privacy & Safety are important aspects of the Metaverse (e.g. protection of children)
* Ethical aspects need to be considered
* Metaverse is a long-term project (not just a hype)
* Collaboration is needed e.g. on the topic secure metaverse
* How to regulate the Metaverse?
* Sustainability aspects of Metaverse – where are the gains?

Call to Action

* Collaborate continuously to share information e.g. to use in gap analysis.

The ITU-T GSC repository at <https://www.itu.int/en/ITU-T/gsc/23> hosts all the GSC-23 documents: <https://www.itu.int/en/ITU-T/gsc/23/Pages/documents.aspx>

**GSC-23 Presentations:**

* [ATIS: Regional Needs and Global Standards](https://www.itu.int/en/ITU-T/gsc/23/Documents/GSC-23-S01-002.pptx)
* [ETSI: Acting local, being global Cooperation is transformation](https://www.itu.int/en/ITU-T/gsc/23/Documents/GSC-23-S01-003.pptx)
* [IEC: Value of Global Standards – One Example from IEC](https://www.itu.int/en/ITU-T/gsc/23/Documents/GSC-23-S01-004.pptx)
* [IEEE SA: Raising the World’s Standards](https://www.itu.int/en/ITU-T/gsc/23/Documents/GSC-23-S01-005.pptx)
* [TSDSI: PSO Operational Aspects - Session 1A](https://www.itu.int/en/ITU-T/gsc/23/Documents/GSC-23-S01-008.pdf)
* [TTA: Standardization Activities & Challenges for Digital Transformation](https://www.itu.int/en/ITU-T/gsc/23/Documents/GSC-23-S01-009.pptx)
* [ATIS: Sustainability in ATIS](https://www.itu.int/en/ITU-T/gsc/23/Documents/GSC-23-S02-001.pptx)
* [CCSA: ICT Standards Enabling SDGs](https://www.itu.int/en/ITU-T/gsc/23/Documents/GSC-23-S02-002.pptm)
* [ETSI: ETSI activity on Sustainability](https://www.itu.int/en/ITU-T/gsc/23/Documents/GSC-23-S02-003.pptx)
* [IEC: ICT Standards Enabling Global Sustainability Goals – The All-Electric and Connected Society (AECS)](https://www.itu.int/en/ITU-T/gsc/23/Documents/GSC-23-S02-004.pptx)
* [IEEE SA: IEEE Initiatives in Sustainability and Sustainable ICT](https://www.itu.int/en/ITU-T/gsc/23/Documents/GSC-23-S02-005.pdf)
* [ITU: ITU standards driving Sustainable Digital Transformation](https://www.itu.int/en/ITU-T/gsc/23/Documents/GSC-23-S02-007.pdf)
* [TTC: Our contribution to the SDGs through standardization activities](https://www.itu.int/en/ITU-T/gsc/23/Documents/GSC-23-S02-009.pdf)
* [ISO: Datacenter Energy Efficiency Benchmarks and Standards](https://www.itu.int/en/ITU-T/gsc/23/Documents/GSC-23-S02-006.pptx)
* [TSDSI: ICT Standards Enabling SDGs](https://www.itu.int/en/ITU-T/gsc/23/Documents/GSC-23-S02-008.pdf)
* [ATIS, CCSA, ETSI, IEC & ISO, IEEE, ITU-T, TSDSI, TTA: Session 3: Technical standards to support Metaverse/XR](https://www.itu.int/en/ITU-T/gsc/23/Documents/GSC-23-S03-001.pptx)

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