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|  | INTERNATIONAL TELECOMMUNICATION UNION  **TELECOMMUNICATION STANDARDIZATION SECTOR**  STUDY PERIOD 2022-2024 | | TSAG-TD275R2 |
| TSAG |
| Original: English |
| **Question(s):** | | RG-WM | Geneva, 30 May – 2 June 2023 |
| **TD** | | | |
| **Source:** | | Rapporteur, TSAG Rapporteur group on working methods | |
| **Title:** | | Working document to discuss a possible way forward for Recs ITU-T A.4 and A.6 | |
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**Abstract:** This TD is a working document to support the discussion on contribution C29 (Proposed way forward for Recs. ITU-T A.4, A.5 and A.6 and related qualified organizations) at the ad hoc group on Thu 1 June, 13:30-14:15.

**Action**: This TD is proposed for discussion in RG-WM.

Items for discussion and agreement:

1. **Update the** [**list of A.4-, A.5- and A.6-qualified organizations**](https://www.itu.int/en/ITU-T/extcoop/Pages/sdo.aspx) **as follows:**
   1. Delete the following entries as these entities do not exist anymore:
      1. [**3G Association**](http://www.3gassociation.ru) **(A.4/ALL)**
      2. [**ASN.1 Consortium**](https://www.itu.int/en/ITU-T/extcoop/Pages/sdo.aspx) **(A.4/ALL)**
      3. [**IPsphere Forum**](http://www.ipsphereforum.org) **(A.4/ALL)**
      4. [**OIPF**](http://www.openiptvforum.org) **(A.4/ALL)**

**Decision:** Agree/Disagree

* 1. Delete the following entry as it has been merged into [**Broadband Forum**](http://www.broadband-forum.org/) **(A.4 & A.5/ALL)**:
     1. [**IP/MPLS Forum**](http://www.ipmplsforum.org) **(A.4 & A.5/ALL)  
        Note: No normative reference has been been made to texts of the IP/MPLS Forum in ITU-T Recommendations.**

**Decision:** Agree/Disagree

* 1. Delete the following entries if the entities do not exist anymore:
     1. [**IPDR Organization**](http://www.ipdr.org) **(A.4/ALL)** (broken link, does it still exist?)
     2. [**MACCSA**](https://www.itu.int/en/ITU-T/extcoop/Pages/sdo.aspx) **(eval A.4/ALL)** (circular link, does it still exist?)
     3. [**Zerde**](http://en.zerde.gov.kz/content/history#/) (A.6**/ALL (SG13)**) (broken link, does it still exist?)
     4. [**MMTA**](http://www.mmta.org.cn/english/aboutus.asp) **(A.4/ALL)** (broken link, does it still exist?)

**Decision:** Agree/Disagree

1. **Confirm the need to keep the following entities on the qualification list** as they seem to be marketing/communication/training commercial entities or user blog, which may not justify a qualification, keeping in mind that the qualification is not needed to exchange liaison statements with these entities:

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| TSAG [Report of the 7-11 Nov 2005 meeting](http://www.itu.int/md/T05-TSAG-R-0007/en): "The plenary noted that liaison statements can be exchanged with external bodies as necessary to progress work, subject to appropriate approvals. Qualification under Recommendations A.4, A.5 and A.6 is not a requirement. The concerned ITU-T group, however, should consider the criteria in those Recommendations when deciding whether or not to exchange liaisons statements with the external body."  [TD312 [2013-2016]](https://www.itu.int/md/T13-TSAG-150602-TD-GEN-0312/en): "TSB reported that Recs ITU-T A.4 and A.6 are not really necessary for study groups to collaborate with organizations, while existence of Recs ITU-T A.4 and A.6 does not prevent other organizations to collaborate with ITU-T." |

* + 1. [**CEPCA**](http://www.cepca.org) **(A.4/ALL)**

**Decision**: Needed/Not needed

* + 1. [**MSF**](http://www.msforum.org) **(A.4/ALL)**

**Decision**: Needed/Not needed

* + 1. [**UPA**](http://www.upaplc.org) **(A.4/ALL)**

**Decision**: Needed/Not needed

1. **Confirm the need to keep a distinction between Recommendations ITU-T A.4 and A.6:**
   * There were essentially two differences:
     + Rec. ITU-T A.4 addresses "forums and consortia" while A.6 addresses "national or regional standards development organization".
     + Rec. ITU-T A.6 addresses the case of an organization accepting texts, in part or in whole, from another organization, which implies that this was allowed for national or regional standards development organization (as per A.6) and not allowed for forums and consortia covered in A.4.
   * The TSB provided the following feedback on the qualifying criteria:

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| [TD129 [2013-2016]](https://www.itu.int/md/meetingdoc.asp?lang=en&parent=T13-TSAG-140617-TD-GEN-0129): "These criteria are also difficult to evaluate because the purpose of Rec. ITU‑T A4 and A6 is not very clear; it would be helpful if the purpose and scope of Rec. ITU-T A.4 and A.6 could be clarified. As was already clarified by TSAG, the ITU-T A.4/A.6 qualification is not needed to communicate with external organizations." |

* + These distinctions do not exist anymore because Rec. ITU-T A.25 was created for the incorporation (in whole or in part) of text from other organization. Similarly to Rec. ITU-T A.5, Rec. ITU-T A.25 applies to all entities, be they forums, consortia, national or regional standards development organizations or other SDOs.

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| [TD312 [2013-2016]](https://www.itu.int/md/T13-TSAG-150602-TD-GEN-0312/en): "It is not useful to define or classify the type of organizations in Rec. ITU-T A.5; it is sufficient to just use the name of the organization." |

**Decision**: Needed/Not needed

1. **If the decision for item 3 is "needed", confirm the need to keep the possibility to "incorporate texts" in Rec. ITU-T A.6:**
   * + Rec. ITU-T A.6 addresses the case of an organization accepting texts, in part or in whole, from another organization, which implies that this was allowed for national or regional standards development organization (as per A.6) and not allowed for forums and consortia covered in A.4.
     + Rec. ITU-T A.25 was created for the incorporation (in whole or in part) of text from other organization. Similarly to Rec. ITU-T A.5, Rec. ITU-T A.25 applies to all entities, be they forums, consortia, national or regional standards development organizations or other SDOs.

**Decision:** Needed/Not needed

1. **If the decision for item 3 is "Not needed", assess whether organizations which are currently only A.4- or A.6-qualified but not A.5-qualified would have to be A5-qualified or do not need any qualification:**

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| **Forum/Consortium** | **Qualified** | | | **Related Study Groups** |
| **A.4** | **Decision:**  **A.5** | **A.6** |
| [**AIOTI**](https://aioti.eu/) | x |  |  | ALL (SG20) |
| [**CalConnect**](https://www.calconnect.org/) | x |  |  | SG2 |
| [**CEF**](http://www.cloudethernet.org/) | Eval |  |  | ALL |
| [**DMTF**](http://dmtf.org) |  |  | Eval | ALL(SG13) |
| [**Emerge Alliance**](http://www.emergealliance.org/Home.aspx) | Eval |  |  | ALL |
| [**GSM Association**](http://www.gsmworld.com) | x |  |  | ALL |
| [**INATBA**](https://inatba.org/) | x |  |  | ALL(SG16) |
| [**IPv6 Forum**](http://www.ipv6forum.com) | x |  |  | ALL |
| [**MACCSA**](https://www.itu.int/en/ITU-T/extcoop/Pages/sdo.aspx) | Eval |  |  | ALL |
| [**NRO**](http://www.nro.net) | x |  |  | ALL |
| [**SDL Forum Society**](http://www.sdl-forum.org) | x |  |  | ALL |
| [**The Green Grid**](http://thegreengrid.org) | Eval |  |  | ALL |

1. **If the decision for item 3 is "Not needed", choose one of the following options:**
   1. Withdraw Recs ITU-T A.4 and A.6 and only rely on Rec. ITU-T A.5.

**Decision:** Agree/Disagree

* 1. Alternatively, create a new A-series Recommendation (A.x), by merging relevant information from Recs ITU-T A.4 and A.6, that will:
     1. Focus on the procedures to communicate with other organizations
     2. Include the information that communication via liaison statements with other organizations do not require these organizations to be qualified under A.4, A.5, A.6 or A.x.
     3. Clarify which qualification criteria from Rec. ITU-T A.5 would be need for purposes other than communication
     4. Reference Recs ITU-T A.5 (for referencing) and A.25 (for incorporating in part or in whole).
     5. Requalify A.4- or A.6-qualified organization that do not need to be A.5 qualified under that new A-x Recommendation.
     6. Assess whether organization which are currently only A.4- or A.6-qualified would have to be also A5-qualified.

**Decision:** Agree/Disagree

* 1. Alternatively, withdraw Rec. ITU-T A.6 and:
     1. Keep A.5- and A.6-qualified organizations as A.5-qualified only;
     2. Requalify organizations that are only A.6-qualified as A.4-qualified;
     3. Modify Rec. ITU-T A.4 to replace "forums and consortia" by "standards development organizations".

**Decision:** Agree/Disagree

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