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|  | INTERNATIONAL TELECOMMUNICATION UNION  **TELECOMMUNICATION STANDARDIZATION SECTOR**  STUDY PERIOD 2022-2024 | | | TSAG-TD446 | |
| TSAG | |
| Original: English | |
| **Question(s):** | | N/A | | Virtual, 18 January 2024 | |
| **TD** | | | | | |
| **Source:** | | IRM Chair | | | |
| **Title:** | | IRM: Draft meeting report of the Inter-regional Meeting for preparation of WTSA-24 (virtual, 18 January 2024, 13:00-16:00 hours Geneva time) | | | |
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| **Keywords:** | Inter-regional meeting (IRM); Report; |
| **Abstract:** | This TD holds the draft meeting report of the first inter-regional meeting for preparation of WTSA-24 (virtual, 18 January 2024, 13:00-16:00 hours Geneva time). |

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

# Opening of the meeting, IRM Chair

The Chair of the Inter-regional meeting (IRM), Mr Ritu Ranjan Mittar, Director General Telecom, Department of Telecommunication, Ministry of Communication of the Government of India, Designated Chair for WTSA-24, welcomed the participants to the first Inter-regional Meeting for preparation of WTSA-24, which was held on 18 January 2024, on virtual mode.

He welcomed the TSB Director, Mr Seizo Onoe as well as the representatives of the six regional telecommunications organizations, ATU, APT, CEPT, CITEL, League of Arab States   
and the RCC, all the participants from the Sectors Members organizations, other organizations, invited experts, research institutes and all delegates and participants online. He also welcomed the Mr Premjit Lal, Deputy Director General, International Relations and Deputy Director of Standardization from the Department of Telecom, Ministry of Communications, Government of India.

Mr Mittar introduced briefly his past experience in standardization with the Department of Telecom, as well as his experience with ITU-T (Study Group 11, Study Group 13 and Study Group 17), ITU-R, and ITU-D work.

Mr Mittar was assisted by Mr Bilel Jamoussi, Deputy to the Director of TSB.

TSB introduced [TD 308](https://www.itu.int/md/T22-TSAG-240122-TD-GEN-0308/en) “Note to be read at the start of the meeting”. TD308 was presented by a TSB Avatar video.

[TD 387](https://www.itu.int/md/T22-TSAG-240122-TD-GEN-0387/en) “IRM and TSAG Interactive Remote Participation Guidelines – Zoom” was also introduced and explained by TSB to the online participants.

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

[TD 447](https://www.itu.int/md/T22-TSAG-240122-TD-GEN-0447/en) holds the final list of participants. In total, 200 participants attended the first virtual IRM.

**2 Welcoming remarks by the TSB Director**

The Director of TSB, Mr Seizo Onoe, provided his opening remarks welcoming all participants and underlined the importance of technical standardization which is gaining increasing attention from all communities, in government, industry, academia, and civil society, highlighting that the ITU-T work needs to be efficient, effective, and focused on global impact. The ITU trusted platform and standards must be the world's most inclusive.

The TSB Director recognized that WTSA will review the ITU-T strategy, structure and working methods to ensure that ITU continues to offer reliability and consistency to the international standardization community.

Mr Onoe mentioned WTSA-20 Resolution 99 on the consideration of organizational reform of ITU-T study groups and how WTSA is a key opportunity to ensure that ITU remains well positioned to serve emerging standardization demands and a chance to demonstrate leadership in international cooperation and inspire confidence in ITU's ability to help craft the future we want.

The IRM Chair thanked the TSB Director and invited the Deputy Director General, International relations and ITU Focal Point, for his opening remarks by India, as host country for WTSA-24.

**Opening remarks by India - WTSA-24 Host Country**

Mr Premjit Lal, Deputy Director General introduced an overview of the ongoing preparations India has been working on to host WTSA-24, and several events other events will be taking place during and around WTSA-24, including the India mobile congress to mention one among several.

He mentioned the different aspects of the host country preparations, including the details of the main Convention center where India will be hosting the Plenary which has a capacity of over 3,000 participants, with a seating capacity of 1500, which is required for the ITU meetings.

Mr Lal announced that the host country website, which is planned to be inaugurated in March 2024, will be having all the details about the venue, the hotels, the facilitation, weather and taxis services and airport services and all hospitality and services. The Deputy Director General mentioned that all details will be provided by TSB in his presentation later on at the IRM meeting.

Mr Lal concluded by mentioning that the fact that WTSA will be for the first time held in Asia, the host country India is proud and very honoured to be the host.

**Opening remarks by IRM Chair**

Mr Ritu Ranjan Mittar, IRM Chair stressed the importance of the inter-regional process and the first in the series which will provide a very important platform for exchange of ideas and to know the progress being made by various regions.

Mr Mittar further added, also based on his latest experience of and capacity of Study Group 11 Chair that it is also help in building common understanding which is very important for the standardization work.

The importance of reaching common ground, understanding the key interventions made by other participants, acceptable to all is a very important aspect in the ICTs standardization.

The IRM Chair further highlighted that, considering the speed of the technology that will always continue, it is up to the standardization to keep pace with it. He continued stating that the ultimate loser if this was not the case, will be the consumer because the standardization ensures interoperability, it ensures quality of service, it ensures competitiveness. This is in short the overall benefits of standardization.

To conclude his opening remarks the IRM Chair stated the importance of ITU that must have the leadership position in this field and looked forward to a very fruitful first IRM meeting.

# Approval of the agenda

The IRM Chair introduced [TD 445](https://www.itu.int/md/T22-TSAG-240122-TD-GEN-0445/en) which holds the draft agenda for the Inter-regional meeting for preparation of WTSA-24 (virtual, 18 January 2024; 1300-1600 hours Geneva time). The draft agenda was adopted with no changes.

**4 Information by TSB**

**4.1 Information by TSB on the Preparations for WTSA-24**

Mr Jamoussi, TSB introduced [TD 404](https://www.itu.int/md/T22-TSAG-240122-TD-GEN-0404/en) “Information by TSB on Preparations for WTSA-24”.

The IRM Chair thanked TSB for the very comprehensive presentation and all the ongoing preparations both with the Host country India and within TSB.

**4.2 Appointment of chairs at WTSA-24**

TSB then presented [TD 438](https://www.itu.int/md/T22-TSAG-240122-TD-GEN-0438/en) “Appointment of chairs at WTSA-24”.

One representative asked clarification regarding TD 438, on the appointment of Chairs at WTSA. It was clarified by TSB that the TD refers specifically to the Chairs of the Study Groups, TSAG and the Standardization Committee Vocabulary and not for the Chairs of committees of WTSA.

1. **Regional Telecommunications Organizations updates**

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

Dr Hyoung Jun Kim, Chair of APT-WTSA (Korea), speaking on behalf of APT, introduced contribution [C 69](https://www.itu.int/md/T22-TSAG-C-0069/en) “Preparation of APT for WTSA-24”.

**5.2 African Telecommunication Union (ATU)**

Ms Rebecca Mukite, Chair of ATU African coordination group for the preparation of   
WTSA-24, (Uganda), speaking on behalf of ATU, presented contribution [C 89](https://www.itu.int/md/T22-TSAG-C-0089/en) “ATU presentation to IRM”.

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

Mr Mihail Ion, Chair of the CEPT PT ITU-T (Romania) speaking on behalf of CEPT, introduced contribution [C 83](https://www.itu.int/md/T22-TSAG-C-0083/en) “CEPT presentation for the 1st IRMs”.

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

Ms Ena Dekanic, Chair of the CITEL WGCONF (USA) speaking on behalf of CITEL, introduced contribution [C 88](https://www.itu.int/md/T22-TSAG-C-0088/en) “Status Update on WTSA-24 Preparations”.

**5.5 League of Arab States/ASTeam**

Mr Abdullah Al Mubadal, Chair of ASTeam (Saudi Arabia), speaking on behalf of LAS/ASTeam, introduced contribution [C 61](https://www.itu.int/md/T22-TSAG-C-0061/en) “LAS/ASTeam presentation to the first IRM for WTSA-24”.

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

Dr Evgeny Tonkikh, RCC WTSA preparation coordinator (Russian Federation), speaking on behalf of RCC, introduced contribution [C 90](https://www.itu.int/md/meetingdoc.asp?lang=en&parent=T22-TSAG-C-0090)  **“**Preparation of RCC for WTSA-24”.

**5.7 Discussions**

At the end of all the RTOs presentations, the IRM Chair invited any questions or comments from participants.

The TSB secretariat for the TSAG Rapporteur group for WTSA preparations asked a clarification as there are two Russian Federation contributions along the line of revising Resolutions 18 and 75, namely whether these two proposals are alignment with the modified PP Resolutions or there is more than just the alignment?

RCC clarified that it was agreed as a draft proposal of common position of RCC on Resolution 75 and then the text from RCC proposed for discussion for first TSAG meeting. RCC further added there is a general idea was to optimize and align with the PP Resolution 140 and expressed the wish to have discussion in the upcoming TSAG meeting.

A representative asked whether, when there is a draft Resolution in the state of development in all regions, how to share these draft Resolutions among the various regional organizations, so that an alignment between the various Resolutions may be made.

TSB clarified whether the draft modifications to the Resolutions would be shared from one region with the other regions is the decision of each RTO. As it was the case for the IRM meeting, having seen some of the presentations that were shared, some of those modifications were put on the slides. Some have been also submitted to TSAG as contributions, to present some of the modifications. The answer is it depends, region by region, case by case, some of these are being shared with others.

The same representative asked whether there is an ITU policy that the Regions may share their Resolutions among themselves to have a better alignment.

TSB further clarified that there is no policy to share in advance of WTSA, rather an opportunity through this IRM mechanism to share proposals. It is up to the regions to what extent and when they could share any modifications. TSAG and the Rapporteur group meetings of the TSAG could be an opportunity to do this. RTOs would need to submit to WTSA their respective revisions or modifications or new Resolutions.

TSB suggested to the IRM Chair to invite the regional representatives to address this question.

Ms Ena Dekanic, (Chair of WGCONF of CITEL) speaking on behalf of CITEL, added that CITEL do not share the draft proposals before the texts are agreed among the CITEL administrations and become Inter-American proposals. She further invited all representatives, if there are specific Resolutions in which we have DIAPs, to be in touch with her directly to foster collaboration, as to help foster alignment among the regions, working on the same Resolution.

**6 Regional Preparatory meetings for WTSA-24**

The TSB Advisor TSB Focal point for the Regions introduced [**TD 389R1**](https://www.itu.int/md/meetingdoc.asp?lang=en&parent=T22-TSAG-240122-TD-GEN-0389)“WTSA-24 update for regional preparatory meetings”, as well as [TD 388](https://www.itu.int/md/T22-TSAG-240122-TD-GEN-0388/en) **“**WTSA-24 Inter-regional coordination” on behalf of the TSB Director. Both documents were submitted for information.

TSB invited RTOs to share with TSB of any other changes that may not be reflected in the weekly updates of the [Regional Preparatory Meetings website](https://www.itu.int/wtsa/2024/prepmeet/). The IRM Chair thanked TSB for these useful updates and no other comments or queries were formulated on this point.

The IRM Chair invited all RTOs representatives to present their views or comments on the progress made and on the points of the agenda, as well on the presentations and updates shared so far in the meeting.

Dr Hyoung Jun Kim, (Chair of APT-WTSA), speaking on behalf of APT, mentioned the list of the upcoming meetings foreseen in the coming weeks and months, including the upcoming APT – 2nd Meeting of APT Preparatory Group for WTSA-24 (APT WTSA24-2). Because of the early stages of the APT preparatory process, he had no other comments or specific questions on the other RTO shared presentations.

Ms Rebecca Mukite (Chair of ATU African coordination group), speaking on behalf of ATU, thanked for the opportunity to present further comments and added that the upcoming ATU preparatory meeting will take place in Nairobi, 5 – 9 February. The IRM meeting will be providing an input to that occasion. Ms Mukite continued adding that ATU plans to engage with the different regions in the forthcoming meetings, including the forthcoming TSAG meeting, to gain more perspective on the different contributions and outlook and common areas of interest as well as in areas where there are difference of perspective.

Mr Mihail Ion (Chair of PT ITU-T) speaking on behalf of CEPT, mentioned the appreciation to the other RTOs for sharing their updates as well as for regional coordinators for their progress work. He continued adding that no other specific comments were to be added but mentioned his presence at TSAG next week and willingness to engage with other colleagues, as necessary.

Mr Abdullah Al Mubadal, (Chair of ASTeam), speaking on behalf of LAS/ASTeam thanked for the opportunity to comment, adding that ASTeam was ready and look forward to working with all other RTO and all Regions and to be collaborative to agree a common and shared Resolutions and decisions.

Dr Evgeny Tonkikh (RCC WTSA preparation coordinator), speaking on behalf of RCC, thanked all other RTOs representatives expressing that the IRM gave an opportunity to see how we move the other issues which could be covered by WTSA. He raised a question for ATU, namely, to share the exact dates for observers to be allowed to ATU preparatory meetings.

Ms Rebecca Mukite (Chair of ATU African coordination group), speaking on behalf of ATU, confirmed the need to further check with the secretariat on the exact dates for that observer opportunity, as the date would be communicated at a later stage, as the final details and arrangements for the upcoming ATU preparatory meeting were still ongoing.

ASTeam representative also added that updated dates for the LAS/ASTeam upcoming meetings will be also shared with other RTOs as requested.

**7 Proposed date for the next Inter-regional meeting**

The IRM Chair confirmed that the second inter-regional meeting for preparation of WTSA-24 is proposed to be scheduled on 25 July 2024 (virtual mode) and he invited all participants to mark that date in their calendars.

**8 Conclusions**

To conclude the first IRM, Mr Mittar proposed the following points for the consideration of all participants: it was clear that certain regions are beginning the real work on the Resolutions.

However, some regions like CITEL, CEPT and RCC have had some preliminary discussions and they have formed some views. He added that, although and there are views on WTSA Resolution 99 - (Geneva, 2022) - Consideration of organizational reform of the ITU Telecommunication Standardization Sector study groups. He further added that all the regions may firm up their views on the restructuring part, so that as and when the regional views are available only then attempts can be made to come and reach a common ground.

The IRM Chair thanked the regional representatives again for their presentations, as there are many proposals that need to be considered for the Assembly.

# 9 Any other business

TSB provided the following updates:

1) In terms of participants to the first IRM, around 220 participants registered for the meeting and approximately 180 are on online.

2) [TD 460](https://www.itu.int/md/T22-TSAG-240122-TD-GEN-0460/en) “Designated chairs for WTSA-24 and GSS-24” was posted and a revision of [TD 438R1](https://www.itu.int/md/T22-TSAG-240122-TD-GEN-0438/en) was issued to reflect the feedback today, as well as [TD 404](https://www.itu.int/md/T22-TSAG-240122-TD-GEN-0404/en) correction with the new confirmed dates of the ITU Council.

Regarding the IRM format, as a possible way forward Mr Jamoussi proposed to organize an informal gathering during TSAG, for the regional representatives to get together and exchange views.

# No other businesses were raised at this time.

# 10 Closure of the meeting

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| The IRM Chair thanked, on behalf of his country India, all delegates, and participants for the successful conclusion of this first Inter-regional meeting.  He expressed the wish for the delegates that will participate to the WTSA-24 to take time out after the normal WTSA business to visit historical places in India.  The IRM Chair thanked all the representatives and leaders of the six regional telecommunications organizations for their engagement, all representatives, and the delegates of the private sectors.  He continued thanking the TSB Director Mr Seizo Onoe, the Deputy to the Director, Mr Bilel Jamoussi, Mr Hiroshi Ota, Ms Alexandra Gaspari, and all TSB supporting staff for their hard work, as well as the interpreters in preparing this Inter-regional meeting.  He concluded the meeting thanking the Deputy Director of International Relations for the India Ministry and his team. |
| The Inter-regional meeting was closed on 18 January 2024, at 1455 hours Geneva time.  \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ |

**Annex 1 – List of documents**

All contributions and documents of the first Inter-regional meeting for preparation of WTSA-24 are available at: <https://www.itu.int/wtsa/2024/irm/presentations-01/>.

**Table 1 – List of Contributions**

| **Contribution #, Source**  **Title** |
| --- |
| [**C 69**](https://www.itu.int/md/meetingdoc.asp?lang=en&parent=T22-TSAG-C-0069)   Asia-Pacific Telecommunity  IRM: Preparation of APT for WTSA-24 |
| [**C 83**](https://www.itu.int/md/meetingdoc.asp?lang=en&parent=T22-TSAG-C-0083)   European Conference of Postal and Telecommunications Administrations  IRM: CEPT presentation for 1st IRM |
| [**C 90**](https://www.itu.int/md/meetingdoc.asp?lang=en&parent=T22-TSAG-C-0090)   Regional Commonwealth in the Field of Communications  IRM: Preparation of RCC for WTSA-24 |
| [**C 61**](https://www.itu.int/md/T22-TSAG-C-0061/en) League of Arab States/Arab Standardization Team (ASTeam)  IRM: LAS/ASTeam status of preparation for WTSA-24 |
| [**C 88**](https://www.itu.int/md/meetingdoc.asp?lang=en&parent=T22-TSAG-C-0088)Inter-American Telecommunication Commission (CITEL)  IRM: Status Update on WTSA-24 Preparations |
| [**C 89**](https://www.itu.int/md/meetingdoc.asp?lang=en&parent=T22-TSAG-C-0089)   African Telecommunications Union (ATU)  IRM: ATU presentation to IRM |

# Table 2 – List of TDs

| **TD#, Source**  **Title** |
| --- |
| [TD 387](https://www.itu.int/md/T22-TSAG-240122-TD-GEN-0387/en) TSB  IRM and TSAG Remote Participation User Guide |
| [TD 308](https://www.itu.int/md/T22-TSAG-240122-TD-GEN-0308/en) - IRM Chair  IRM: Note to be read by the IRM Chair at the start of the meeting |
| [TD 445](https://www.itu.int/md/T22-TSAG-240122-TD-GEN-0445/en)R1 - IRM Chair IRM: Draft agenda for the inter-regional meeting for preparation of WTSA-24 (virtual, 18 January 2024, 13:00-16:00 hours Geneva time) |
| [TD 404](https://www.itu.int/md/T22-TSAG-240122-TD-GEN-0404/en)R1 - TSB Information by TSB on Preparations for WTSA-24 |
| [**TD 389R1**](https://www.itu.int/md/meetingdoc.asp?lang=en&parent=T22-TSAG-240122-TD-GEN-0389) - Director of TSB  IRM: WTSA-24 update for regional preparatory meetings |
| [TD 388](https://www.itu.int/md/meetingdoc.asp?lang=en&parent=T22-TSAG-240122-TD-GEN-0388)  - Director of TSB  IRM: WTSA-24 Inter-regional coordination |
| [TD 438](https://www.itu.int/md/meetingdoc.asp?lang=en&parent=T22-TSAG-240122-TD-GEN-0438)  - Director of TSB  Appointment of chairs at WTSA-24 |
| [TD 447](https://www.itu.int/md/T22-TSAG-240122-TD-GEN-0447/en) – TSB  IRM: Final list of participants |
| [TD 446](https://www.itu.int/md/T22-TSAG-240122-TD-GEN-0446/en) - IRM Chair  IRM Draft meeting report of the inter-regional meeting for preparation of WTSA-24 (virtual, 18 January 2024, 13:00-16:00 hours Geneva time) |
| [TD 460](https://www.itu.int/md/T22-TSAG-240122-TD-GEN-0460/en) – Director of TSB  Designated chairs for WTSA-24 and GSS-24 |

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