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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-TD525 |
| **TSAG** |
| **Original: English** |
| **Question(s):** | | N/A | Geneva, 29 July – 2 August 2024 |
| **TD** | | | |
| **Source:** | | Rapporteur, RG-DT | |
| **Title:** | | Report of TSAG RG-DT meeting 31 July 2024 | |
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| **Abstract:** | This TD contains the report of TSAG Rapporteur Group on Sustainable Digital Transformation (RG-DT) held on 31 July 2024 during TSAG meeting. |
| **Action required**: | The following **actions for TSAG** are requested through TSAG-WP2 to:  RGDT-1: approve this RG-WTSA meeting report as found in [TD525](https://www.itu.int/md/meetingdoc.asp?lang=en&parent=T22-TSAG-240729-TD-GEN-0525).  RGDT-2: agree to include in the TSAG report to WTSA-24 the proposed new Resolution on Sustainable Digital Transformation in Annex 1.  RGDT-3: send a LS in Annex 2 to UPU for action.  RGDT-4: agree to the new terms of reference for RG-DT  RGDT-5: authorize RG-DT to hold three interim rapporteur group meetings (all online) pending sufficient input by contribution deadline at one week in advance, as follows:   1. 10 December 2024, 13:00-15:00 Geneva time 2. 29 January 2025, 13:00-15:00 Geneva time 3. 6 March 2025, 13:00 -15:00 Geneva time |

1. **Introduction**

A meeting of the TSAG Rapporteur Group on Digital Transformation (RG-DT) took place during TSAG 29 July – 2 August 2024, at 16:15 – 17:30 CEST on Wednesday 31 July 2024 with captioning. Also, an ad hoc drafting session was held at 08:30-09:30 on Thursday 1 August 2024.

Mr Ahmad Sharafat, Iran, Rapporteur of TSAG RG-DT, chaired the meeting with the help from Mr Vijay Mauree as the TSB secretary to this RG.

**First session: Wednesday 31 July 2024 (16:15 – 17:30 Geneva time)**

1. **Opening and approval of the agenda**

The Rapporteur welcomed participants to the first session of this RG-DT meeting. The agenda of the RG-DT meeting as found in [TD524](https://www.itu.int/md/meetingdoc.asp?lang=en&parent=T22-TSAG-240729-TD-GEN-0524) was introduced by the Rapporteur and approved by the first session of RG-DT meeting without modifications.

1. **List of documents**

A list of documents allocated for discussion in RG-DT as in Annex 1 of [TD524](https://www.itu.int/md/meetingdoc.asp?lang=en&parent=T22-TSAG-240729-TD-GEN-0524) was presented and discussed in the meeting.

1. **Review of RG-DT interim progress**

The Rapporteur presented [TD531](http://www.itu.int/md/meetingdoc.asp?lang=en&parent=T22-TSAG-240729-TD-GEN-0531) indicating the progress made on the draft text for WTSA Resolution on *Enhancing the standardization activities on Sustainable Digital Transformation*.

RG-DT held seven meetings since its creation.

The main terms of reference of RG-DT are as follows:

* Prepare a gap analysis on the activities and studies on digital transformation in ITU-T, ITU-D and ITU-R as well as in other standardization bodies;
* Consider inter alia, definitions, concepts, system architectures, use-cases, fundamental underlying technologies, interoperability, and the ecosystem of digital transformation;
* Develop draft new Resolution WTSA on digital transformation.

RG-DT had sent liaisons to all the study groups in ITU-T, ITU-D and ITU-R sectors and received liaison statements from some of the study groups in ITU-D and ITU-T on their activities related to digital transformation. However, some responses were received late and it was not possible to complete the gap analysis in time for this meeting.

With regards to the draft new Resolution WTSA on digital transformation, a draft text on which there was consensus at the last meeting of RG-DT on 1 July is at Annex 1. However, there is a contribution ([C108](http://www.itu.int/md/meetingdoc.asp?lang=en&parent=T22-TSAG-C-0108) from USA and Canada) for this TSAG meeting indicating that there is no consensus on the draft text for the new Resolution.

This progress report was noted.

1. [**C108**](http://www.itu.int/md/meetingdoc.asp?lang=en&parent=T22-TSAG-C-0108) **– United States and Canada**

United States introduced [C108](http://www.itu.int/md/meetingdoc.asp?lang=en&parent=T22-TSAG-C-0108)which provides views on the draft new WTSA Resolution on digital transformation as contained in Annex 1 of [TD531](https://www.itu.int/md/T22-TSAG-240729-TD-GEN-0531/en) which has not fully addressed concerns previously raised, in particular with regards to

* Sustainable digital transformation remains an ITU-wide, not a sector-specific, goal. As *recalling c)* acknowledges, sustainable digital transformation is one of the two strategic goals of the entire ITU, not only the ITU-T. Most of the actions and activities set out in this Resolution are relevant across the ITU and are not unique to the ITU-T; this draft seems more suited to a Plenipotentiary Resolution, not a WTSA Resolution.
* An ITU-T focus group is not the appropriate mechanism for the proposed activities. Although the current text has softened the relevant instruction to TSAG (*i.e.*, “*may* include”), it nonetheless continues to presuppose the need for a focus group on this topic and disregards the possibility of continued work in the RG-DT instead.
* There continues to be significant overlap with WTSA Res. 44 on bridging the standardization gap between developing and developed countries.

After some discussion on the way forward with regards to reaching a consensus, it was agreed to set up an Ad Hoc drafting session on 1 August at 08:30 – 0930 am.

1. [**C114**](http://www.itu.int/md/meetingdoc.asp?lang=en&parent=T22-TSAG-C-0114) **– Broadcom Europe**

Broadcom Europe introduced [**C114**](http://www.itu.int/md/meetingdoc.asp?lang=en&parent=T22-TSAG-C-0114) which highlights the experience of UPU in digital transformation, and proposes that RG-DT could consider inviting the UPU to share its learnings and input to the relevant work of RG-DT or whatever is the format of the Rapporteur Group in the next study period.

There was consensus to invite UPU to share its work on Digital Transformation with TSAG RG-DT.

1. **Any other Business**

None.

1. **Closure**

The Rapporteur closed the second RG-WTSA meeting at 17:15 on 31 July 2024. An adhoc drafting session will be held on 1 August 2024 08:30 – 09:30 am to discuss the draft text for the new WTSA Resolution on Digital Transformation.

The Rapporteur thanked contributors and meeting participants for their active involvement and fruitful discussions, and the captioners who were able to continue to the end of the RG-DT session.

**Adhoc session: Thursday 1 April 2024 (08:30 – 09:30 Geneva time)**

1. **Approval of the agenda for Adhoc Session**

Mr Ahmad Sharafat, Iran, Rapporteur of TSAG RG-DT, chaired the meeting with the help from Mr Vijay Mauree as the TSB secretary to this RG. The Rapporteur welcomed participants to the Adhoc session for RG-DT.

The agenda of the adhoc session proposed by the Rapporteur is as follows:

1. Liaison statement to be sent to UPU
2. Dates for next interim meetings
3. Comments on draft text for new WTSA Resolution on digital transformation

The proposed agenda was approved.

1. **Liaison statement to UPU**

At the TSAG meeting of 29 July – 2 August 2024, TSAG RG-DT received a contribution from Broadcom Europe Ltd ([C114](https://www.itu.int/md/meetingdoc.asp?lang=en&parent=T22-TSAG-C-0114)) to consider inviting UPU to share its learnings and inputs on digital transformation which could be relevant to the work of TSAG RG-DT. The liaison statement in Annex 2 invites UPU to submit information on its activities related to digital transformation.

The liaison statement in Annex 2 was approved at the meeting.

1. **Next interim meetings of RG-DT**

The meeting agreed to the proposal of the Rapporteur to plan three interim virtual meetings in next study period before the first TSAG meeting in 2025 to progress this RG-DT work based on contributions received:

1. 10 December 2024, 13:00-15:00 Geneva time (contribution deadline: 3 December 2024)
2. 29 January 2025, 13:00-15:00 Geneva time (contribution deadline: 22 January 2025)
3. 6 March 2025, 13:00 -15:00 Geneva time (contribution deadline: 27 February 2025).

The meeting agreed to invite Contributions on the following:

1. Finalizing the gap analysis; and
2. Consider inter alia, definitions, concepts, system architectures, use-cases, fundamental underlying technologies, interoperability, and the ecosystem of digital transformation;
3. **Comments on draft text for new WTSA-24 Resolution on digital transformation**

The consensus reached after the discussion on the draft text for new WTSA-24 Resolution on digital transformation is show in Annex 1.

1. **Terms of reference for RG-DT**

The current terms of reference for RG-DT are as follows:

1. Prepare a gap analysis on the activities and studies on digital transformation;
2. Consider inter alia, definitions, concepts, system architectures, use-cases, fundamental underlying technologies, interoperability, and the ecosystem of digital transformation;
3. Progress draft new Resolution WTSA on digital transformation;
4. Submit RG-DT report to TSAG.

The updated terms of reference for RG-DT are as follows:

1. Progress a gap analysis on the activities and studies on digital transformation;
2. Consider inter alia, definitions, concepts, system architectures, use-cases, fundamental underlying technologies, interoperability, and the ecosystem of digital transformation;
3. Consolidate all guidelines, recommendations, technical reports, best practices and use cases developed by ITU-T on sustainable digital transformation, through the use of ITU web-based tools, and to identify strategies and mechanisms to facilitate and allow Member States to proactively use these tools to hasten the transfer of knowledge,
4. Develop guidelines for developing countries on the basis ITU‑T recommendations, particularly those related to sustainable digital transformation,
5. Recommend measures to foster cooperation and collaboration with other recognized bodies and standards development organizations (SDOs), with the Radiocommunication Sector, the Telecommunication Development Sector, and the General Secretariat;

**Annex 1**

RESOLUTION XXX (New Delhi, 2024)

**Enhancing the standardization activities on sustainable digital transformation**

The World Telecommunication Standardization Assembly (New Delhi, 2024),

*recalling*

a) that the ITU strategic plan for 2024-2027, approved by means of Resolution 71 (Rev. Bucharest, 2022) of the Plenipotentiary Conference, establishes that Sustainable Digital Transformation is a strategic goal of the Union in facilitating progress towards the implementation of the World Summit on the Information Society (WSIS) action lines and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development;

*recognizing*

a) WTSA Resolution 44 *Bridging the standardization gap between developed and developing countries*

b) WTDC Resolution 89 *Digital transformation for sustainable development*

*considering*

a) that digital transformation through utilising the emerging key technologies, enabling new services and applications, and promoting the information society is the key enabler for making progress towards sustainable development, which shall be taken into account in the work of ITU‑T,

b) that for the developing countries at the initial stage of introducing digital transformation, it is important to have technical standards and guidelines, which would make it possible to introduce digital transformation in a timely manner,

c) that there is a need to rapidly develop high-quality, demand-driven, interoperable, and non-discriminatory international standards (ITU‑T recommendations) to support and facilitate activities on sustainable digital transformation in line with the principles of global connectivity, openness, affordability, reliability, interoperability and security, which are critical for generating confidence for further investments on sustainable digital transformation,

d) that there is also a need to extend and facilitate international cooperation on sustainable digital transformation among international and regional standardization bodies, with a view to avoiding duplication of work and achieving efficient use of resources;

*considering further*

that ITU‑T technical standards and recommendations that support and facilitate digital transformation will contribute towards achievement of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, taking into account that developing countries could benefit immensely from the application and development of technical standards and guidelines that facilitate digital transformation activities;

*noting*

that the Telecommunication Standardization Advisory Group (TSAG) created a Rapporteur Group on Sustainable Digital Transformation (RG-DT) in June 2023;

*resolves to instruct TSAG*

to take all necessary steps to promote and enhance standardization activities that support and facilitate digital transformation, including continuation of the Rapporteur Group on Sustainable Digital Transformation.

*instructs ITU-T Study Groups*

a) to develop technical standards, guidelines and best practices that will help membership in particular developing countries take advantage of new and emerging telecommunication/ICTs in order to support digital transformation,

b) to coordinate and collaborate with other groups within ITU and recognized standards development organizations (SDOs) and institutions with primary responsibility for standards development and capacity building in the area of digital transformation.

*invites Member States, Sector Members, Associates and Academia*

to contribute to studies and development of technical standards and guidelines related to digital transformation.

**Annex 2: Outgoing Liaison Statement to UPU**

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| TSAG |
| Original: English |
| **Question(s):** | | N/A | | | Geneva, 29 July - 2 August 2024 |
| **TD** | | | | | |
| **Source:** | | Rapporteur, TSAG RG-DT | | | |
| **Title:** | | LS/o on activities and studies on sustainable digital transformation [To UPU] | | | |
| **LIAISON STATEMENT** | | | | | | |
| **For action to:** | | | UPU | | | |
| **For information to:** | | |  | | | |
| **Approval:** | | | TSAG meeting (Geneva, 2 August 2024) | | | |
| **Deadline:** | | | N/A | | | |
| **Contact:** | | Ahmad R. Sharafat Iran | | E-mail: [ahmad.sharafat@gmail.com](mailto:ahmad.sharafat@gmail.com) | |

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| **Abstract:** | This liaison statement invites UPU to contribute to the work of RG-DT. |

The TSAG rapporteur group on sustainable digital transformation (RG-DT) is tasked to perform a gap analysis on the activities and studies on sustainable digital transformation in ITU-T, ITU-D and ITU-R as well as in other standardization bodies.

At the TSAG meeting of 29 July – 2 August 2024, TSAG RG-DT received a contribution from Broadcom Europe Ltd ([C114](https://www.itu.int/md/meetingdoc.asp?lang=en&parent=T22-TSAG-C-0114)), to consider inviting the UPU to share its learnings and inputs on digital transformation which could be relevant to the work of RG-DT.

In this context, TSAG RG-DT would like to invite UPU to provide detailed information and a description of UPU’s activities and studies on digital transformation. The template is available in Annex 1 below.

Looking forward to receiving your feedback. TSAG/RG-DT thanks for collaboration and timely provisioning of the requested information.

**Annex 1  
Activities and studies related to sustainable digital transformation**

| **Sector/Domain** | **Study group or**  **SDO** | **Title of deliverable** | **Scope of deliverable** | **Current status** | **Reference/URI** |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| *Please indicate the sector/domain for which digital transformation is applied*  *(e.g. health, education, transportation, standardization, etc.)* | *Please highlight the ITU-T, ITU-D, ITU-R SG or other SDO which is in charge* | *Please indicate the title of the deliverable* | *Please provide the short description summarizing the scope of the deliverable highlighting its relevance to digital transformation* | *Please indicate status of the deliverable (e.g. approved, ongoing)* | *Please provide reference to the latest document, including a hyperlink* |

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