International Telecommunication Union

ITU-T

TELECOMMUNICATION
STANDARDIZATION SECTOR
OF ITU

WORLD TELECOMMUNICATION STANDARDIZATION
ASSEMBLY
Hammamet, 25 October – 3 November 2016

Resolution 18 – Principles and procedures for the allocation of work to, and strengthening coordination and cooperation among, the ITU Radiocommunication, ITU Telecommunication Standardization and ITU Telecommunication Development Sectors

FOREWORD

The International Telecommunication Union (ITU) is the United Nations specialized agency in the field of telecommunications, information and communication technologies (ICTs). The ITU Telecommunication Standardization Sector (ITU-T) is a permanent organ of ITU. ITU-T is responsible for studying technical, operating and tariff questions and issuing Recommendations on them with a view to standardizing telecommunications on a worldwide basis.

The World Telecommunication Standardization Assembly (WTSA), which meets every four years, establishes the topics for study by the ITU-T study groups which, in turn, produce Recommendations on these topics.

The approval of ITU-T Recommendations is covered by the procedure laid down in WTSA Resolution 1.

In some areas of information technology which fall within ITU-T's purview, the necessary standards are prepared on a collaborative basis with ISO and IEC.

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RESOLUTION 18 (Rev. Hammamet, 2016)[1]

Principles and procedures for the allocation of work to, and strengthening coordination and cooperation among, the ITU Radiocommunication, ITU Telecommunication Standardization and ITU Telecommunication Development Sectors

*(Helsinki, 1993; Geneva, 1996; Montreal, 2000; Florianópolis, 2004;
Johannesburg, 2008; Dubai, 2012; Hammamet, 2016)*

The World Telecommunication Standardization Assembly (Hammamet, 2016),

recalling

a) Resolution 191 (Busan, 2014) of the Plenipotentiary Conference, on strategy for the coordination of efforts among the three Sectors of the Union;

b) Resolution ITU-R 6 of the Radiocommunication Assembly (RA) (Rev. Geneva, 2015), on liaison and collaboration with the ITU Telecommunication Standardization Sector (ITU-T), and RA Resolution ITU-R 7 (Rev. Geneva, 2015), on telecommunication development including liaison and collaboration with the ITU Telecommunication Development Sector (ITU-D);

c) Resolution 59 (Rev. Dubai, 2014) of the World Telecommunication Development Conference (WTDC), on strengthening coordination and cooperation among the three ITU Sectors on matters of mutual interest;

d) Resolutions 44 and 45 (Rev. Hammamet, 2016) of this assembly, on mutual cooperation and integration of activities between ITU-T and ITU-D,

considering

a) that a basic principle for cooperation and collaboration among the ITU Radiocommunication Sector (ITU-R), ITU-T and ITU-D is the need to avoid duplication of activities of the Sectors, and to ensure that work is undertaken efficiently and effectively;

b) that there are a growing number of issues of mutual interest and concern to all Sectors, including the following: electromagnetic compatibility (EMC); international mobile telecommunications (IMT); middleware; audiovisual delivery; accessibility for persons with disabilities; emergency communications: information and communication technologies (ICT) and climate change; and security in the use of ICT;

c) the responsibilities of ITU-R, ITU-T and ITU-D according to the principles laid down in the ITU Constitution and Convention, i.e.:

• that the ITU-R study groups shall focus (Nos. 151 to 154 of the Convention) on the following in the study of Questions assigned to them:

    i) use of the radio-frequency spectrum in terrestrial and space radiocommunication and of the geostationary-satellite and other satellite orbits;

    ii) characteristics and performance of radio systems;

    iii) operation of radio stations;

    iv) radiocommunication aspects of distress and safety matters;

- that the ITU-T study groups shall study (No. 193 of the Convention) technical, operating and tariff questions and prepare Recommendations on them with a view to standardizing telecommunications on a worldwide basis, including Recommendations on interconnection of radio systems in public telecommunication networks and on the performance required for these interconnections;

- that, as indicated in No. 214 of the Convention, the ITU-D study groups shall deal with specific telecommunication questions of general interest to developing countries, including the matters enumerated in No. 211 of the Convention, and such study groups shall be limited in number and created for a limited period of time, subject to the availability of resources, shall have specific terms of reference on questions and matters of priority to developing countries and shall be task-oriented;

d) that joint meetings of the Radiocommunication Advisory Group (RAG), the Telecommunication Standardization Advisory Group (TSAG) and the Telecommunication Development Advisory Group (TDAG) shall review the distribution of new and existing work among the Sectors, subject to confirmation by the applicable procedures of each Sector, the objective being to:

- minimize the duplication of activities of the Sectors;

- group the standardization activities in order to foster cooperation and coordination of the work of ITU-T with regional standardization bodies,

recognizing

a) that there is a need to improve the participation of developing countries in the work of ITU, as outlined in Resolution 5 (Rev. Dubai, 2014) of WTDC;

b) that one such mechanism – the Inter-Sectoral Emergency Communications Team – has been established to ensure close collaboration within the Union as a whole, as well as with interested entities and organizations outside ITU, on this key priority issue for the Union;

c) that all the advisory groups are collaborating in the implementation of Resolution 123 (Rev. Busan, 2014) of the Plenipotentiary Conference, on bridging the standardization gap between developing and developed countries,

taking into account

a) that mechanisms for cooperation, beyond those already established, need to be identified to address a growing number of subjects of mutual interest and concern in ITU-R, ITU-T and ITU-D;

b) the ongoing consultation among representatives of the three advisory groups in the discussion of modalities for enhancing cooperation among the advisory groups;

c) that, according to No. 119 of the Constitution, the activities of ITU-R, ITU-T and ITU-D shall be the subject of close cooperation with regard to matters relating to development, in accordance with the relevant provisions of the Constitution;

d) that, according to No. 215 of the Convention, ITU-R, ITU-T and ITU-D shall keep the matters under study under continuing review with a view to reaching agreement on the distribution of work, avoiding duplication of effort and improving coordination, and the Sectors shall adopt procedures to conduct such reviews and reach such agreement in a timely and effective manner;

e) that an Intersector Coordination Task Force (ISC-TF) in the secretariat, headed by the Deputy Secretary-General, an Intersector Coordination Group on Matters of Mutual Interest, and a TSAG subgroup on intra-ITU collaboration and coordination have been established,

noting

that Resolution ITU-R 6 provides mechanisms for ongoing review of the allocation of work and cooperation between ITU-R and ITU-T,

resolves

1   that RAG, TSAG and TDAG, meeting jointly as necessary, shall continue the review of new and existing work and its distribution among ITU-R, ITU-T and ITU-D, for approval by Member States in accordance with the procedures laid down for the approval of new and/or revised Questions;

2   that, if considerable responsibilities in either two or three Sectors in a particular subject are identified:

i)   the procedure given in Annex A to this resolution should be applied; or

ii)   the matter should be studied by relevant study groups of the Sectors involved, with appropriate coordination (see Annexes B and C to this resolution); or

iii)   a joint meeting may be arranged by the Directors of the Bureaux involved,

invites

1   RAG, TSAG and TDAG to continue to assist the Intersector Coordination Group on Matters of Mutual Interest in the identification of subjects common to the three Sectors and mechanisms to enhance cooperation and collaboration in all Sectors on matters of mutual interest;

2   the Directors of the Radiocommunication (BR), Telecommunication Standardization (TSB) and Telecommunication Development (BDT) Bureaux and ISC-TF to report to the Intersector Coordination Group on Matters of Mutual Interest and the respective Sector advisory groups on options for improving cooperation at the secretariat level to ensure that close coordination is maximized,

instructs

1   the ITU-T study groups to continue cooperation with the study groups of the other two Sectors so as to avoid duplication of effort and make use of the results of work done by the study groups of those two Sectors;

2   the Director of TSB to report annually to TSAG on the results of the implementation of this resolution.

ANNEX A
(to Resolution 18 (Rev. Hammamet, 2016))

Procedural method of cooperation

With respect to *resolves* 2 *i)*, the following procedure should be applied:

a)   The joint meeting of the advisory groups referred to in *resolves* 1 will nominate the Sector which will lead the work and will finally approve the deliverable.

b)   The lead Sector will request the other Sectors to indicate those requirements which it considers essential for integration in the deliverable.

c)   The lead Sector will base its work on these essential requirements and integrate them in its draft deliverable.

d)   During the process of development of the required deliverable the lead Sector shall consult with the other Sectors in case it has difficulties with these essential requirements. In case of agreement on revised essential requirements the revised requirements shall be the basis for further work.

e)   When the deliverable concerned comes to maturity, the lead Sector shall seek once more the views of the other Sectors.

In the determination of the work responsibility, it may be appropriate to progress the work by drawing jointly on the skills of the Sectors involved.

ANNEX B
(to Resolution 18 (Rev. Hammamet, 2016))

Coordination of radiocommunication, standardization and development activities through intersector coordination groups

With respect to *resolves* 2 *ii)*, the following procedure shall be applied:

a)   The joint meeting of the advisory groups referred to in *resolves* 1 may, in exceptional cases, establish an intersector coordination group (ICG) to coordinate the work of the Sectors involved and to assist the advisory groups in coordinating the related activity of their respective study groups.

b)   The joint meeting shall, at the same time, nominate the Sector which will lead the work.

c)   The mandate of each ICG shall be clearly defined by the joint meeting, based on the particular circumstances and issues at the time the group is established; the joint meeting shall also establish a target date for termination of the ICG.

d)   The ICG shall designate a chairman and a vice-chairman, one representing each Sector.

e)   The ICG shall be open to members of the participating Sectors in accordance with Nos. 86-88, 110-112 and 134-136 of the Constitution.

f)   The ICG shall not develop Recommendations.

g)   The ICG shall prepare reports on its coordinating activities to be presented to each Sector's advisory group; these reports shall be submitted by the Directors to the participating Sectors.

h)   An ICG may also be established by WTSA or by RA or by WTDC following a recommendation by the advisory group(s) of the other Sector(s).

i)   The cost of an ICG shall be supported by the participating Sectors on an equal basis and each Director shall include budgetary provisions for such meetings in the budget of his or her Sector.

ANNEX C
(to Resolution 18 (Rev. Hammamet, 2016))

Coordination of radiocommunication, telecommunication standardization and development activities through intersector rapporteur groups

With respect to *resolves* 2 *ii)*, the following procedure shall be applied when work on a specific subject could be best performed by bringing together technology experts from the study groups or working parties concerned of either two or three Sectors to cooperate on a peer-to-peer basis in a technical group:

a) The study groups or working parties concerned in each Sector may, in special cases, agree by mutual consultation to establish an intersector rapporteur group (IRG) to coordinate their work on a specific technical subject, informing RAG, TSAG and TDAG of this action through a liaison statement.

b) The study groups or working parties concerned in each Sector shall, at the same time, agree on clearly defined terms of reference for the IRG, and establish a target date for completion of the work and termination of the IRG.

c) The study groups or working parties concerned in each Sector shall also designate the chairman (or co-chairmen) of the IRG, taking into account the requested specific expertise and ensuring equitable representation of each Sector.

d) Being a rapporteur group, the IRG shall be regulated by the provisions applicable to rapporteur groups, given in the most recent versions of Resolution ITU-R 1, Recommendation ITU-T A.1 and WTDC Resolution 1; participation is limited to members of the Sectors involved.

e) In fulfilling its mandate, an IRG may develop draft new Recommendations or draft revisions to Recommendations, as well as draft technical reports or draft revisions of technical reports, to be submitted to its parent study groups or working parties for further processing as appropriate.

f) The results of the IRG's work should represent the agreed consensus of the IRG or reflect the diversity of views of the participants in the IRG.

g) An IRG shall also prepare reports on its activities, to be submitted to each meeting of its parent study groups or working parties.

h) An IRG shall normally work by correspondence and/or by teleconference; however, it may occasionally take the opportunity of a meeting of its parent study groups or working parties to hold short face-to-face concurrent meetings, if this is feasible without support by the Sectors.