

ITU-T Workshop on Bridging the Standardization Gap and Interactive Training Session

(Algiers, Algeria 26-27 Sept 2011)

Decision-Making in ITU-T

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Decision-Making in ITU-T

- Many kinds of decisions made in ITU-T
- The procedures sometime indicate the approval criteria but not always
- The following slides show various decisions and the related decision-making mechanism
- Avoid “voting” in ITU-T
- Important note: ITU is a United Nations Specialize Agency – ONLY Member States have the right to vote

Decision-Making in ITU-T

- Decision to enable progression of work
- “Soft” criteria
 - SG agrees to start new work
 - SG decides to establish a Focus Group
 - SG determines that a draft Recommendation is sufficiently mature...
 - SG reaches consent that a draft technical Rec is sufficiently mature ...
 - SG selects the relevant approval procedure by consensus

Decision-Making in ITU-T

- Definitive decisions for approvals
- Quantifiable criteria
 - 70% affirmative of the MSs responding to Formal Consultation to authorize a study group to approve a Recommendation
 - Unopposed agreement of MSs present to approve Recommendation under the Traditional Approval Process
 - No more than 1 MS present being in opposition to approve Rec under the Alternative Approval Process

Decision-making principles: a practical approach

- From examples, we see that some decisions are quantifiable and some are not
- This has been carefully, and successfully, designed in this manner:
 - With flexibility, so work can progress (decides, agrees, determines, etc)
 - With specificity, when final decisions are taken (unopposed agreement, no more than one MS, etc)

The general approach to decision-making in the ITU



■ Consensus

Consensus – I know it when I see it

- No rigorous definition of consensus
 - ➔ There have been many attempts to define it, but none have succeeded
- Consensus is declared by the Chairman of the meeting
- The Chairman's declaration can be challenged, but there is no explicit conflict resolution process
- Some Standards Bodies have a definition, which their members might try to impose on ITU-T

Decision-making Observations (1)

- Avoid putting a sovereign MS in a position that forces it to state support or opposition, e.g., open voting, show of hands, direct query
 - Elegant solution is “unopposed agreement”
- Chair can help by carefully crafted questions that move meeting ahead:
 - “Is there any support/opposition to the proposal?”

Decision-making Observations (2)

- The day-to-day work progresses by consensus among the participants
- The chairman's job is to create an environment that allows the meeting to find consensus
- Resolution of a conflict is achieved only by those directly involved, with a report to the parent group
- **Consensus is the foundation of global standardization**



Thank you

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