

# Process to develop standards in the ITU-T

- *A personal view from the perspective of WP3/15*

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# ITU-T processes

- **Recommendation ITU-T A.1 defies the working methods including:**
  - Frequency of Study Group meetings
  - Management and organization of meetings
  - Work program
  - Processing of documents (contributions, liaison statements and temporary documents)
  - Role of rapporteurs (in the development of Recommendations)
  - Work on deliverables (Recommendations, supplements, Technical Reports, Technical Papers) is based on written contributions that are submitted before the contribution deadline
- **Approval of a Recommendation**
  - TAP (traditional approval process) is defined in Resolution 1
    - Applies to Recommendations which require formal consultation of Member States because of:  
*“Policy or regulatory implications, such as tariff and accounting issues and relevant numbering and addressing plans”*
  - AAP (alternative approval process) is defined in Recommendation A.8
    - Used for all other Recommendation

# ITU-T organization

- **Work is distributed across the Study Groups**
  - Each Study Group has a particular area of expertise
  - Responsibilities are allocated to minimize overlap and gaps
  - At the start of each 4-year Study Period WTSA reviews the Responsibilities and Questions allocated the Study Groups
    - A Study Group can propose a new Question or modifications to existing Questions during the Study Period
- **Each Study Group is organized into Working Parties**
  - Each Working party focusses on a particular aspect of the responsibility assigned to the SG
- **Activities in a Working Party are distributed to Questions**
  - Questions are the expert groups that do the work
  - The Rapporteur organizes the work of a Question
  - The Rapporteur appoints Editors to assist in the development of Recommendation

# Types of meetings

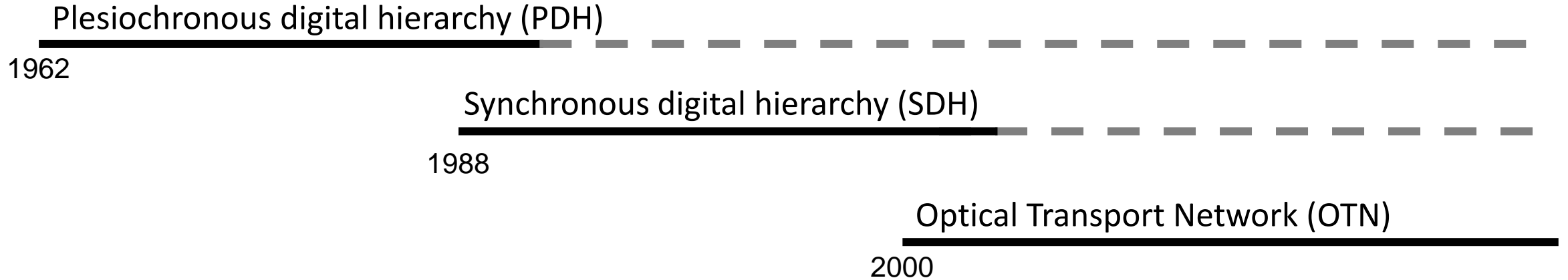
- **Study Group plenary face-to-face meeting**
  - Duration ~two-weeks, held every 6-9 months
  - All Questions meet
  - Based on contributions address all topics within the scope of the Study Group
- **Face-to-face interim meeting of a Question**
  - Held between the SG plenary meetings
  - Terms of reference (i.e. the range of topics) are agreed at the SG plenary meeting
    - May be restricted to a sub-set of the work within the scope of a Question
      - E.g., The Recommendations planned for consent at the next SG plenary
- **eMeeting of a Question**
  - Held between SG plenary meetings
  - Terms of reference are proposed by the Question and approved by the SG management team
- **Correspondence Activity**
  - Focussed on a single topic, proposed by the Question and approved by the SG management team
- ***eMail discussion***
  - Informal activity, any topic within the scope of the Question – “results” have no official status

# Recommendation development lifecycle

## • **Four distinct phases**

1. Open discussion of topics within the scope of one or more Questions
  - A complex topic may require work in more than one Question
    - E.g. a new frame format may require work on the architecture, timing performance and management interface
    - Typically coordinated at a SG meeting
2. Problem definition; scope of the deliverable for each Question
  - At a SG meeting initiate (or modify) a work item in the work program
  - Defines the scope of the deliverable and identifies at least 4 member companies who will actively support the work (i.e. submit contributions to progress the work)
3. Create the content
  - Agree on the approach to solve the problem stated in the work item
  - Develop text to describe the agreed approach
    - The text should define only the aspects required to enable interoperable systems. It should not define, or require, a particular implementation
4. Approval (using AAP)
  - At a Study Group meeting
    - Finalize the draft text and initiate Last Call
    - 28-day period for members to submit comments
    - Comment resolution prepare revised text for additional Review
    - 21-day period for final review before approval

# The eras of digital transport networks



- **Low speed services are still in the network in 2024**
  - E1 and low speed Ethernet (10 Mb/s and 100Mb/s) services are still being used
  - Currently being carried over SDH
    - *Systems in the field are approaching end of life*
- **Client server independence – a key feature of SDH and OTN:**
  - Buffers the transport network infrastructure (both hardware and network operations) from changes in services
  - New clients don't need a new transport network
    - A new client “only” needs a new adaptation function at the edge of the network
- **The key application that drove initial development was not the driver for sustained growth**
- **OTN has evolved, and will continue to evolve**

# How Recommendations are developed

- Agreements are reached by consensus of those present at a meeting
- The text of a Recommendation must be traceable to one or more contributions and the agreements documented in the report of a meeting
  - SG, interim, eMeeting or correspondence activity
- Recommendations have Editors NOT Authors
  - The editor produces text as directed by the Rapporteur to implement the agreements documented in a meeting report
- Attributes of an ideal delegate
  - Knowledgeable in the technology under discussion
  - History with the group
    - Established technical credibility
    - Understands the dynamics of the group
  - Has the flexibility and knowledge to make compromises
  - Understands that the objective is to develop standards that provide a stable basis for the telecommunications network whilst allowing for evolution

# ITU Leadership positions

- **Leadership positions are not “honorary”**
  - They require a significant amount of time that must be recognized by their employer
  - The burden should be shared across the ITU membership
- **WP/SG Chair, rapporteurs and editors are required to lead the development of Recommendations**
  - Industry needs to support these positions
- **Leaders must be impartial**
  - Drive the group to a mutually agreed consensus
  - Cannot promote a company position from the chair
    - Typically, a Rapporteur or Editor will ask the Associate Rapporteur or co-editor to run the meeting when presenting a company contribution



*Thank you*