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JOINT COORDINATION ACTIVITY ON ACCESSIBILITY AND HUMAN FACTORS

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>> ANDREA SAKS: Okay. Thank you very much for waiting. This is Andrea Saks, the Chairman of the Joint Coordination Activity on Accessibility and Human Factors. I'd like to introduce people who are on the podium.

First of all, we have the Deputy Secretary General, Mr. Malcolm Johnson, who has come in to sit with us and listen to what we are doing.

We also have our Vice Chair, which is Christopher Jones. And Xiaoya Yang, who is the Secretariat.

We do have a remote Vice Chair, Gerry Ellis, who is in Ireland. Gerry, you can say hello. Gerry! Have we lost him? Well, he is there. He is calling from his office, so maybe he got -- but we'll have him come back.

And we hope to be joined later by -- do you have -- I don't know that I have the full list. Erenik, do we have Floris Van Nes on? Not yet. Will you let me know if he comes on if I miss that. Another Vice Chair who is in the Netherlands who will be calling in.

Now, Xiaoya has on the page the agenda for today. We are going to make some adjustments. If you all have a look at it -- can you scroll through it slowly so everybody can see it because we did send this out pretty late.

If we can hold for one minute.

>> CHRISTOPHER JONES: Andrea, if you don't mind pausing there, I have a special announcement to make at this point. I am inviting Beat Kleeb, who is the representative from the World Federation of the Deaf, who is ready to address the meeting now. Beat.

>> BEAT KLEEB: Ladies and gentlemen, when people talk about disability, most of the time they think about persons who use wheelchairs or blind persons who walk with a white cane or are accompanied by a guide dog.

People can quickly understand the problems that those groups may face. However, there are invisible disabilities. People with those disabilities are not as easily understood. Probably the largest group of persons with these invisible disabilities are the deaf and hard-of-hearing communities. It is estimated that there are around 70 million deaf people in the world and an even larger number of persons who are hard of hearing.

A true understanding of the everyday problems of deaf people can be gained only by sharing in their everyday life experience for some time. There is a special group of hearing people who share considerable amounts of their time in their lives with deaf adults. Thus they gain an insight into deafness as a disability. This group is called Children of Deaf Adults, or CODAs. CODAs, as children, lend their ears to parents. They assume interpreting tasks at an early age. And they make phone calls for their parents. Most CODAs come out strong from this childhood experience, assuming these early responsibilities. And some of them make it a lifelong destiny to support the Deaf community.

The main problem that deaf people face is, first and foremost, communication. It's not the inability to hear. This is why the ITU is such an important organization for the Deaf community. However, before ITU was active in disability issues, there were three deaf men who tried, around the 1960s, to solve at least one of the communication problems, that being making telephone calls. One of them was Andrew Saks. He had a daughter. She became a most extraordinary CODA. That is Andrea Saks. She has carried on her father's legacy up to this present day. We can be assured that she will go on for many more years to come.

Andrea followed the fast developments of information and communication technology for a number of decades. She is aware that deaf, hard-of-hearing, and blind people are the groups most affected by this rapid development in ICT.

She is also aware that these groups can benefit most from this ICT development if society is made aware of both the problems and also the opportunities that this new technology presents.

Andrea found her way into the ITU, thus really making an impact on the global level.

While this particular working group may not have been her initial idea, nonetheless, we would not be here without her strength and guidance. And at this stage, I don't think there are very many people who have the same level of fame within ITU as Andrea does. Her work is not always visible. However, it has had invaluable long-term effects for the Deaf community. And therefore, the World Federation of the Deaf wants to acknowledge the marvelous efforts by Andrea and make her work a little more visible.

However, first we had a small problem. That was we had to decide which country Andrea belongs to. She is a U.S. citizen. She lives in the United Kingdom. She works in Switzerland, and she travels around the world. So we had to make a final determination, which is that we accepted her into the Swiss Deaf community. And these are the pictures of the ceremony that was held recently in Istanbul. And you can see on the left that it says Andrea Saks, Switzerland. She has been adopted into our local Deaf community.

So Andrea has been honored with a First Class International Social Merit Award. This award is given every four years. It's given at the World Congress of the Deaf. And this year, Andrea is one of only three people so honored with this Award of Merit. Andrea was not present at the ceremony in Istanbul, so we tried to keep the honor a secret; however, unfortunately, word leaked out within minutes of the award being announced. And this mishap proves two things to us. It proves that Deaf people absolutely have the ability to communicate with 21st century technology, rapidly. And it also proves that the Deaf community worldwide strongly supports the honor being presented to Andrea.

So Andrea, thank you from the bottom of our hearts for all of the efforts you've displayed. Please keep on with your efforts, and it's been our honor to work with you. We now have a representative from the Swiss Association of the Deaf. This is Frederique Palama, and it is her honor to present the award to you on behalf of the Swiss Association of the Deaf.

>> FREDERIQUE PALAMA: I am thrilled and honored, Andrea. On behalf of the Swiss Association of the Deaf, it's our honor to present to you this certificate honoring the Merit Award

(Applause)

>> ANDREA SAKS: Thank you very much.

>> FREDERIQUE PALAMA: And again, we are very honored to present this award with its accompanying medal.

>> ANDREA SAKS: I am very proud to have this award from the Swiss Association of the Deaf. I am going to kill these guys. They completely surprised me, blew my agenda, get me teary, but nonetheless, thank you so much. I was about ready to have Christopher's head chopped off. Thank you very, very much. I am very honored.

>> FREDERIQUE PALAMA: And the Swiss Association, Andrea, is very proud to present this to you.

>> ANDREA SAKS: I am very happy to meet you. I'd like you to come to our meetings on a more regular basis. So I will make sure we have your email address, as we would like more Swiss people to come.

>> Thank you so much.

(Applause)

>> A quick photo call. Frederique, please join us.

>> CHRISTOPHER JONES: Okay. Now then, the next speaker is Malcolm Johnson, who would like to say a few words about you, Andrea.

>> MALCOLM JOHNSON: Thank you very much, Christopher. This is where Andrea gets worried.

(Laughter)

Now I'd like to congratulate Andrea, first of all, on this Merit Award. Very well deserved. Of course, we in ITU like to think that we've been making a difference over the last few years to the lives of persons with disabilities. And I believe that's largely due to the fact that we've had the benefit of Andrea being very active in our work over many years now. And we appreciate that very much, as you know, Andrea.

ITU recognized Andrea's contribution to our work some years ago, 2008, as a Laureate for the World Telecommunication and Information Society Day. It was awarded to her in Cairo.

So we very much appreciate Andrea's work, and I am very pleased to see that the World Federation of the Deaf also appreciates that work.

We very much want to work with the World Federation of the Deaf and all the other organizations that are actively pursuing the implementation of the UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities. Also, all the private-Sector Members of the ITU that are contributing to achieve those objectives. We rely very much on them in ITU. 80% or 90% of the output of the organization is produced by our industry members, and we really rely on them very much.

And of course, the collaboration we have with you all in this group is very important, that we coordinate our activities and pool our resources to achieve these objectives.

So this JCA group is very important to us, and I'd like to take this opportunity to also thank you all for participating in this JCA, and I really hope that the membership will grow under the leadership of Andrea and that we continue to make a difference in the lives of persons with disabilities.

So I am very pleased today have had this opportunity to join you for this award, and thank you again for your working with us and wish you every good effort in the rest of the meeting and future meetings to come.

Thank you very much.

(Applause)

>> ANDREA SAKS: Is it working? Yeah. I have given Malcolm a really hard time over the years, always with my hand out for money, and he always gives me this look and then opens the ITU wallet and gives it to me. Look at him. (Laughter). He has been very supportive of accessibility all the way through, and if it hadn't been for Malcolm, who used to be the Director of the T Sector, we wouldn't be as far as we are today.

And I also want to recognize Susan Schorr in the audience, who does the accessibility work for ITU-D, who has also been very responsible for getting a lot of information out, including the policy document which they gave the translation in several different languages, and it went to the World Federation for the Deaf. And also Roxana Widmer, who also works very hard. I can't name everyone in the room, but these guys have done an outstanding job. Without them, we wouldn't have been as far as we are. Thank you, Malcolm. I should have smelled a rat when you walked in the door. But thank you. And thank you, Christopher. You are a stinker to do that to me. But I was so annoyed because we have a big agenda, so everybody's going to have to talk fast. And I thought, what is he doing?

But thank you. I am very honored. And thank you again for this wonderful honor. I really, really appreciate it. Thank you. And now we are going to go to business.

(Applause)

>> Just before we go to business, I am just going to take a few more minutes of what we would like to address Mr. Malcolm Johnson. We know Andrea has been banging on your door, asking for your support. We are also well aware that most of the time you have an open ear for issues related to the Deaf world. One example of that was the financing of memory sticks. This enabled us to purchase memory sticks. At the World Congress of the Deaf, we ran our Congress under the title "Human Diversity."  While we represent different kinds of persons, we have different colors, we use different languages, we have different abilities and different disabilities. Nonetheless, we are first and foremost human beings with the same human rights.

Disability must not always have negative connotations on society. They also have positive effects.

So just as an example, the telephone was invented by mistake. It was actually an intent to develop hearing aids for deaf people. And there are more examples of such positive impact. Those impacts are summarized in a book that is entitled Deaf Gain.

So as a token of our appreciation to you, Mr. Johnson, I am happy to offer you a copy of this book, Deaf Gain. Hopefully you will be able to find time to read a few chapters in that book, and I hope that you continue to support the work of persons with disabilities in the future. Thank you so much for all of the work that you've done and your support.

(Applause)

>> Malcolm, would you like to address the group?

>> MALCOLM JOHNSON: Well, thank you very much. It's very kind of you to give me that book, and I look forward to reading it. And, well, I just want to say again that we look forward to continuing this good collaboration that we've developed, and I am really very pleased and touched that making this small contribution to your conference was so well appreciated. It's very nice to see.

And one thing I always feel about the work that we do in the area of accessibilities, that it's always very well appreciated. And of course, to see appreciation for your work really brings a lot of satisfaction to everyone, I believe, and that's why we are all very enthusiastic to continue this good work.

So thank you very much again. Thank you all very much.

(Applause)

>> Okay. Christopher Jones.

>> CHRISTOPHER JONES: Thank you for coming, Malcolm.

Now, then, just one more thing, a very brief item. I have known Andrea for 44 years, since the time when she brought the text phone, TTY, to the UK. We have to thank you from the people in the UK who were then able to talk to each other on the telephone. You have moved mountains -- many, many mountains -- to ensure that accessibility is placed right at the top of the agenda.

So I apologize. You have one really big mountain just over there, Mont Blanc, and we need -- Malcolm needs to be sure that your work, that our work, is spread across the whole of the United Nations, all UN agencies. And it's absolutely vital, and I hope, Malcolm, that you are able to lend your support, and both of you, get out there and give Mont Blanc a shove. Thank you.

(Applause)

>> MALCOLM JOHNSON: Thank you, Christopher. I had a meeting just recently -- I will come back.

No, I had arranged a meeting this -- I think it was last week or the week before with the Secretary to the UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities in Geneva and invited him to come to the next meeting of the JCA. He couldn't come today because he is out of the country. But I told him about the JCA. He is very interested to contribute to the work, and he will come to the next meeting.

>> ANDREA SAKS: Thanks for the warning.

>> MALCOLM JOHNSON: Yeah, and he is very keen to get ITU more involved in both there's a group in Geneva of representatives from the Secretariats of the different UN agencies in Geneva, and they are planning a big event next year in Geneva. I hook forward to ITU's contribution to that. So he is going to come along either the next meeting or a future meeting to explain this, how we can work together and bring all the UN agencies together. So I was reminded of that fact, and I wanted to say that to you. So I think this will be a big contribution to the work as well. So thank you very much.

(Applause)

>> Thank you so much, Malcolm.

>> (Speaker off mic)

>> Andrea, I think you can now begin the meeting.

>> ANDREA SAKS: I am afraid I am a bit thrown, and we are going to have to ask everyone to cut their timing. I am sorry. It's been a bit of a shock, but thank you again.

So now we have to go to work.

Right. The approval of the agenda, which he totally blew. I hope -- do we have anybody who needs to change the agenda? Okay. I think we are okay. And you said there was one change with one person who wanted to -- who is remote, but he is not there?

>> No, DeafKidz International, he cannot make it this time. He said he could join us next time in person maybe.

>> ANDREA SAKS: Okay. That's fine. So that's one person off the agenda, which is okay.

So all I want to -- so if there's no change, we'll just carry with this agenda, if there are no objections.

Okay. Now, the approval of the report of the last JCA-AHF meeting on the 17th of June. Whether you've read it or not, do we approve the agenda? I mean the report?

Okay. We'll move on. Now, the first that we've got here is review of the ITU accessibilities activities, and the first person on there -- I see Lucy is in the audience. Lucy, you get to go first. And then we will -- I presume, Susan, you would like to go next? We are going to do the order. Okay. That's fine. I just wanted to double-check. So Lucy, will you give us a briefing on 2015 accessibility and about the ITU 150-year celebration accessibility for July of 2015. So I turn the floor over to Lucy Spencer, who is sitting at the back.

>> LUCY SPENCER: Hi, everyone. Thank you for having me here today. So I have been asked to speak to you about ITU's promotion of accessibility over the last year. I will cover various communication channels, including the ITU blog and the ITU150 stories.

So it has been a busy year in terms of accessibility promotion, and this is in no small part thanks to the ITU150 campaign. As you may know, ITU turned 150 this year. Communication strategy divided the year into 12 thematic months. Accessibility was promoted throughout the month of July, and this is an exclusive position to be promoted in, and it reflects the importance of the issue. Many of ITU's key tasks and responsibilities were not included in the thematic calendar.

So what does it mean to be in a thematic month? The priority communications through the ITU150 storytelling campaign and the ITU blog, YouTube channel, and social media throughout the month.

So the ITU150 storytelling campaign features Lobna Smida to highlight the theme of the month of July, and it was a passionate advocate for ICT accessibilities. Though physically disabled, she uses her laptop to travel the world, meet friends, and work asen a advocate in the Tunisian Presidential palace. In her own words, without her laptop, she would be a woman of one room. This story has been viewed nearly 600 times since its launch.

The month was also promoted on the youth blog with a number of interesting articles, and there were six blogs in total on the theme of accessibility, with four of them in the top 20 viewed throughout the entire year so far. So Beat Kleeb, who I believe is here today, wrote: It's all about accessibility, which calls for service support in the work on accessibility.

Peter Hayes, the Founder and CEO of VTC-Secure, wrote Ensuring Equal and Effective Communication for All following his speech on ITU HQ in mid-September.

Promoting framework detailed ITU's work promoting accessibility around the world.

My last advocating for accessibility ICTs blog based on a video with Andrea Saks describing her advocacy work for accessibility, which was briefly mentioned today and for which she was awarded quite rightly today.

ITU Secretary-General detailed ITU's proud history and continuing work to achieve ICT accessibility in the road to a fully accessible future.

Captioning Conferences: Accessibility in Action, Pat Graves, President and CEO of Caption First, who provides ITU's captioning services in use today. The varied content shows the extensive, ongoing work by ITU and passionate advocates of the organization convened.

In conclusion, accessibility has been heavily promoted in July across the blog and ITU storytelling campaign. It's been incredibly successful and very well received. Thank you.

>> ANDREA SAKS: Thank you very much, Lucy. Could you repeat how many accessibility blogs?

>> LUCY SPENCER: In total, four are from the top 20 viewed throughout the entire view. So from January 1 to today, they are in the top 20.

>> ANDREA SAKS: I understand we have one more in the pipeline, which is --

>> LUCY SPENCER: Yes, it has been finalized today and will go up tomorrow.

>> ANDREA SAKS: Okay. It's going to go up tomorrow. Would you like to tell them a little bit about that one because they can't see it today.

>> LUCY SPENCER: No, no, it will be online tomorrow. It's by Matt Brady, who went deaf or partially -- has now got partial hearing because of listening to his music device too loud when on a treadmill training. So luckily some of his hearing has been restored, but he still struggles in loud situations and group discussions. So he advocates for the safe use of listening devices, so ensuring that the volume is not at such a level that it will harm people's hearing.

And he quite rightly says that he doesn't want his generation to be a generation of people who can't hear because of choices made early on in life.

>> ANDREA SAKS: I do have a link. If we have time at the end of the meeting, we may just play the link that was given, but I won't do it right now because we've got so much on the agenda. But will you thank everybody for working so hard? Because they did that one really fast. And thank everybody in the division, Matt, Paul, and everyone because they do do a great job, and thank you because you do a great job.

Thank you very much for that report, Lucy.

>> LUCY SPENCER: Thank you.

>> ANDREA SAKS: The next section is ITU-D. I am not going to say Roxana -- I am going to mess that up. I will just call you Widmer. Can we move on the work of ITU-D at present? So please take the floor.

>> ROXANA WIDMER-ILIESCU: Thank you, Andrea.

So I will very briefly mention about the Rapporteur Group of Question 7, Study Group 1, which was held on 13 April this year. Mainly what I would like to share with you, that during this meeting was provided capacity-building training to members on topics covered by the Model ICT Accesibility Policy Report, in particular to the necessary changes to existing legislation to promote ICT accessibility; on how to promote accessibility in public ICT spaces such as data center and public pay phone; on public procurement, including commercial best practices. We also provide capacity-building on which accessibility tools can be used for persons with difficulties mastering reading and writing, as well as for practical application for accessibility e-education.

Later on in September, we had the Study Group meeting on Question 7. We had on 16 of September actually the meeting in which presentation and training of ICT accessible technology and solutions for global communication, education, and inclusion of persons with disabilities and persons with specific needs has been done. We had the pleasure to have four companies who came and presented their accessible solution, among which was VerbaVoice for Germany, Sub-Ti from Italy, AT&T from U.S., as well as VTC-Secure.

I think the time is quite tight, and I will not enter into details, but I will mention that all these solutions to remove barriers to spoken communication have been largely appreciated by the members. Also, during this Study Group meeting, I would like to mention that a new co-Rapporteur was elected, Mrs. Amela Odobasic. As well as members have been mentioned updates on spectrum captioning, copyright, accessible meetings, education and employment impacting persons with disabilities and with specific needs.

A document that was much appreciated for, in particular, the document on the protection in spectrum management for assistive listening devices for persons with disabilities and medical short-range devices, and to make the participants aware that certain spectrums can become overloaded and subsequently cause malfunctions by interference and even stop working due to blockage of their use.

Mrs. Andrea Saks has presented this, and it was taken in consideration in our future work.

At the end, I just want to mention about the launching of the competition on the best strategies policies developed by ITU members in the areas of ICT accessibility, which is due by 19 February. This date is actually the deadline for acceptance of contributions to the Rapporteur Group meeting on Question 7 in the next meeting April 2016.

I think we are now on your agenda on the past and upcoming meetings, and I have the pleasure to give the floor to Mrs. Susan Schorr, who is leading the special initiative division, and she will be speaking about in particular the past meetings. Thank you.

>> SUSAN SCHORR: Thank you very much. Just to reinforce, I think, what's already been said about the model ICT accessibility policy report, in addition to sharing it with the World Federation of the Deaf, I am happy to report that it has now been translated into French, Spanish, and Arabic, and so it will soon be available on the BDT website in all of those languages.

As has been reported to you previously, this Model ICT Accessibility Policy Report is being promoted throughout the world. This includes in February at the Commonwealth Telecommunications Organisation's meeting people with disabilities and ICTs. I had the pleasure of attending the Pacific Disability Forum meeting in Fiji, also in February, and it was the first time that the Pacific Disability Forum looked at ICT accessibility, and they were certainly very interested in our recommendations in our Model ICT Accesibility Policy Report.

We and this report is also being used as a guideline in the development of a national ICT Accessibility Policy Report in Venuatu in the Pacific Islands. In March, we participated as part of the European regional initiative on ICT accessibility for persons with disabilities in the Smart Accessibility on Connected TV workshop in Barcelona.

More recently, the European Regional Initiative organized an event in Serbia from the 8th through 9th of October on the role of ICTs in the development of inclusive societies for persons with disabilities. We had over a hundred people attending that meeting from several countries through southeastern Europe, Albania, Serbia, Montenegro, Romania, Bulgaria, Bosnia and Herzegovina, and of course, we promoted the the model ICT accessibility Policy report there. We also had the participation of two officials from the European Commission. So that was a very good opportunity to promote our model policy.

Last week we were invited to attend the EBU's meeting on access services -- their access services experts meeting in Brussels, and that included a tour of public broadcaster VRT's access service stations, and we got to visit their studios for signing, captioning, as well as audio description, which was very, very interesting for us.

Roxana had the honor of participating in the Rome Film Festival earlier this week to promote the creation of accessible films from the beginning of design of the films, and next week I will be going -- and Christopher, this may also be of interest to you for further UN collaboration -- our colleagues at UNDESA and UN Habitat in Nairobi are organizing a meeting on disability inclusion and urban development. They are having a special meeting and want to see how accessible ICTs can be included moving forward to create sustainable cities, which is quite interesting.

And then in November, we will be organizing the second Accessible Americas event in Colombia from the 4th to the 6th of November.

And finally, we are in the process of conducting an online training course on the ITU Academy on the public procurement of accessible ICTs, and that is ongoing right now.

Thank you very much.

>> ANDREA SAKS: Thank you, Susan. That's a lot of information. Thank you very, very much for sharing all of that.

Fiji, I am quite impressed with that because the islands are isolated, and that's really cool.

So fortunately, I've got the captioning so I could listen to you. I will mention that. I'll put that all in the report so that people can read that later.

We do have a small thing we have to do because we have one interpreter doing international sign, and she needs a bit of a break for five minutes. So can we break for about five, ten minutes. This is not the official coffee break. This is just to give the interpreters just a little bit of a rest. And then, Roxana, can I ask you to continue if there's anything else you wish to discuss about the presentations that were on ITU-D? Can you do that after we just take about a 5-10-minute break? That's okay? Okay. And I need a break. That was a bit of a shock. So we'll come back at 3:30, if that's okay. Thank you.

(Break taken)

>> ANDREA SAKS: All right. We are going to start. Okay. Roxana Widmer is going to talk about the fact that we did demonstrations in ITU-D in Question 7, so I am just going to let her continue. Thank you.

>> ROXANA WIDMER-ILIESCU: Thank you, Andrea.

So as briefly mentioned before, we had four presentations. The first presentation was for VerbaVoice from Germany, presented by Mr. Ribback. This was a solution to remove to spoken communication on TV and Internet through live captioning and for visualizing content through sign language. VerbaVoice app is a communication app from hearing impaired people which makes spoken language accessible as live text and/or sign language video.

The second presentation was through a project FRED AT SCHOOL done by Sub-Ti representative, Mr. Frederico Spoletti. This is an inclusive project which fully responds to the needs of young persons with sensory impairments. The project can also be used for education purposes, as it's currently available in eight languages.

AT&T from U.S., represented by Mrs. Alvarez, presented a solution on real-time text, so RTT, which is a text-based mode of communication where each text chapter appears on the receiving device at the same time it is typed on the sending device, allowing for a conversation flow communication almost simultaneously with voice.

The last one was done by VTC-Secure, also from U.S. It was done by Mr. Peter Hayes, and it was about relay services. So Mr. Hayes presented a solution called ACE, Accessible Communication for Everyone, which is an open-source standard-based software which allows communication which helps to solve communication challenges of persons with disabilities, among themselves, but also from a person with a disability through somebody else.

So for more information, I'm fully at your disposal, so please feel free to ask me whatever you want. Thank you.

>> ANDREA SAKS: Thank you, Roxana. I am still a little shocked.

I have here Christian Vogler from Gallaudet University, who actually has the same device. We were going to have him to do it later, but I think it's appropriate if he does a demonstration very quickly, briefly. Some people have seen it, but I don't think you have, Susan. And we are going to just show how that relay service works in an iPhone. So I am just going to allow him to come up and do it really, really quickly if that's okay.

You want to hook it in?

>> What you can see is the picture you see on the app that is installed on the iPhone, and it is from Access Communication for Everyone, but I won't go through it in too much depth. It's a third-party software that was developed by the VRS system to work with VRS providers in the U.S. context.

So what I am going to do right now is make a Video Relay Service call.

And what you are seeing now is the hold screen while an interpreter comes on screen.

>> INTERPRETER: Hello.

>> CHRISTIAN VOGLER: Hi there. Thanks. Go ahead with placing my call.

>> It's ringing. The line has rung again.

And again.

The phone is still ringing.

And we have an outgoing voicemail message. This is Peter Hayes. I am not available right now. Please leave a message and I will call you back.

>> CHRISTIAN VOGLER: Hi, Becky. This is Christian. Sorry I missed you. I was trying to show some people here at the ITU how this system works.

But anyway, thanks. Take care. See you soon.

>> This message has been left, Video Relay Service number 2509. Thank you.

>> CHRISTIAN VOGLER: So what you will notice is I can leave a message, and it's through the interpreter, and it's left for that other person. That's often been a problem with calling, that no one picks up, and unfortunately, we just had that experience now.

>> CHRISTOPHER JONES: I would say that this is no different to the experience that a hearing person has when they try to contact someone and end up having to leave a message. So why not give the same opportunities to a sign language user? You know, this whole experience has provided an equivalent opportunity to make use of the telephone.

>> ANDREA SAKS: Thank you, Christian.

So that is -- there was -- obviously, we've had this demonstrated a couple times this week, but that gives those of you who weren't here during the other meetings what that looks like. And it enables people to release two-year-old children into the world out into the mud and to play with the ball rather than to have to answer the phone.

So anyway, and the fact, one of the things is that particular app is going to be free to persons with disabilities. It's connected to a platform which is open source, which can be implemented all over the world. It is going to be implemented in the U.S. because what happens is that in the U.S., all the relay services are run by different people and are proprietary, and people have to have the equipment that works with that relay service, which is not working for interoperability, for other persons with disabilities to perhaps even call other relay services because not all the disabilities are the same, and you might have a person who is voice-to-voice who is a person who might suffer from being a paraplegic and having to have voice-to-voice, where a person translates for a hearing person who his voice is like and what he says exactly to somebody who has physical problems who cannot text.

Why don't you say. Yeah, you've got your hand up. You know more about this than I do. You want to go ahead and just quickly go on with that?

Sorry, Christian, I am stealing your thunder.

>> CHRISTIAN VOGLER: Well, thank you, Andrea. That was a good summary. And there's one more important point. You know, we talked about earlier the three people who invented the TTY, right, one of them being your father. So the way that it worked is they use existing technology that they had at the time and they made modifications to it for the deaf and hard-of-hearing community, and we've come back full circle here.

So we are providing technology using current technology and adapting it for deaf and hard-of-hearing people, for anyone in the world, so that anybody will have the ability to take this technology and use it for whatever applications they want to. And that's a very exciting thing that's about to happen.

>> ANDREA SAKS: Picture this. Anybody in any country can call anybody else who is hearing in another country, and it will all work through the same system. That's the goal.

I am going to leave that right now. Roxana, is there anything else you'd like to add about ITU-D? And I snuck that in there, which is great. Thank you very much.

And I think we will move on to the next agenda -- and I know you two have to go back to your offices. Thank you for taking the time to come. I appreciate that.

Okay. The next area, we have the Rapporteur for accessibility in the room, Dr. Masahito Kawamori, and we've had some exciting events happen in the Question 26 meetings that just occurred, and you have the agenda. I would like to turn the floor over to him, and he can tell you what happened regarding technology for persons with disabilities.

Go ahead, please.

>> MASAHITO KAWAMORI: Thank you very much, Madam Chair.

So thank you very much for this opportunity to introduce ITU-T's Question 26, Accessibility to multimedia services. And we had a very good meeting this week, and we were very proud to be able to publish four documents. All of them are very outstanding, as well as revolutionary in the ICT accessibility world, I believe.

The first one is F.ACC-TERM. This is a vocabulary document, and it's a recommendation from ITU-T, which will be proposed for consent at this meeting, which defines essential vocabulary for accessibility to be used among the UN agencies as well as other relevant parties when talking about standardizing accessibility.

So this document gives correct usages and also definitions of some of the difficult terminologies -- I mean terms -- that are used in standardizing accessibility.

Another one, the second one, is HSTP-ACC-RemPart. RemPart stance for remote participation. This is a technical paper which will be approved at this meeting. And this describes guidelines for having remote participation for accessible meetings, and it specifies some of the things and items that need to be considered for accessible remote participation.

The third one, FSTP-AM, standing for accessible meeting, is also a technical paper giving a guideline on accessible meetings. So this is not just remote participation, but any meetings which need to be accessible. It gives guidelines on various features very much in detail to have a very successful accessible meeting. This will also be approved at this meeting.

And we have also another document, which is H.IPTV-ACCProf, which stands for IPTV accessibility profile -- profiles, I am sorry, plural. It is an international recommendation to be consented at this meeting, and I believe this is the first accessibility profile document for IPTV actually touching on minute details of implementation issues, which is meant to be providing sort of a roadmap so that very basic profile can be implemented right away and be used on devices such as TV sets as well as the main profile, which gives full accessibility which can now be implemented by laptops and PCs and more powerful devices.

And we also have implementations already available in the market, and since this is on IPTV, this is globally available. And for persons with disabilities.

And the last document is F.relay. This is just an ongoing work item. But we started to restructure it so that we can move faster to provide standardized technology for persons with disabilities, such as -- the technology such as the one that Christian has just demonstrated so that people anywhere in the world can have this kind of standardized technology in an operable way.

We also had what we call IRG, interRapporteur Group on all the visual accessibility, and we discussed some of the issues regarding broadcast requirements, and we agreed that we will send the H.IPTV-ACCProf to ITU-R Secretariat so that the broadcasting people can take a look at what IPTV can do and so that the broadcasting requirements can include those profiles as well.

That's about it. Thank you very much.

>> ANDREA SAKS: Thank you, Masahito.

I just want to make note of a new Study Group in ITU-T. It's Study Group 20. And Susan Schorr mentioned the fact that people are starting to look at how accessibility can be incorporated into smart cities, and this particular new Study Group, which just, in fact, is meeting this week for the first time, is also dealing with Internet of Things and applications and how that applies to smart cities. So that's -- fortunately, we have a wonderful chair of that who already does a lot of work for accessibility, and if I can go down to ITU-R, it is the new Chairman of Question 20 is from the United Arab Emirates, and his name is Nasser Misraki, and I will figure out a way of getting the spelling to the captioner. And the Arab groups as a total whole. They have, in fact, been making a contribution to the Radio Assembly, the World RadioCongress is meeting this next five weeks, but there is also the Radio Assembly, which will take on the new draft accessibility resolution, which includes the problem with spectrum and hearing aids.

So it's a tiny step, but we are getting there.

Brian Copsey was on, but we've lost him. He may -- I don't know. I don't see him on there anymore. But I was going to hope that he would present more of the situation with the fact that the mobile industry is just taking spectrum, causing interference and blockage of hearing aid devices as well as Bluetooth and -- I always want to call it the BeeGees, but it isn't. What is it called, Masahito? The Bluetooth other thing:

>> ZigBee?

>> ANDREA SAKS: ZigBee, thank you. But anyway, where a lot of our industry is depending upon that along with new technology. And thank you, Mohamed, you bopped in at the same time, and you were speaking together.

So because of the time, I am going to ask just one quick question. Gerry, is there any comment you want to make so far of anything? Because I haven't asked you because of the complete disorganization of the day. Is there anything you would like to say?

And I've asks Floris as well, and he hasn't -- I've asked Floris as well, and he hasn't responded by text.

>> No, thank you, Andrea. It is such a full agenda, I am happy to just let you get on with it.

>> ANDREA SAKS: Thank you very much. Floris -- can you unmute Floris there? Are you there? Can you hear?

>> FLORIS VAN NES: Can you hear me now?

>> ANDREA SAKS: Yes, we can. Is there anything you would -- yes, we can.

>> FLORIS VAN NES: Of course, of course I want to because I am listening now through my telephone. It's different.

Of course, I also feel very much inclined, first of all, to congratulate you with your honor. Are you still hearing me?

>> ANDREA SAKS: Thank you. Yes, we are.

>> FLORIS VAN NES: Because I know -- oh, yes, yes, I heard you.

No, because I very long ago heard about the whole scheme, and of course, I agreed wholeheartedly with it and added a few comments here and there.

But no, I would not say anything more. I also appreciate the fullness of the agenda, and I must say that I so far enjoyed very much listening in and looking, and I will continue to do so.

Thank you.

>> ANDREA SAKS: Thank you, Floris. Thank you.

Now, Christian, do you want to say something? Yeah.

>> CHRISTIAN VOGLER: If I may make a comment. A technical comment. On IOT, on the Internet of Things. The ACE is also looking into a link with that as well with the Internet of Things, so I would like for us to consider how to fit that in as well.

>> ANDREA SAKS: It's a shame that they are meeting at the same time, and yet it's also a possibility that if we weren't in this meeting, you might be able to go meet with Switzerland, even though he is from the United Arab Emirates. So I think there definitely should be a connection between Question 26 and the JCA and Study Group 20. So I will certainly bear that in mind.

We could send a liaison from the JCA if you think it's appropriate, saying the JCA would like to work with Study Group 20. Could we do that? Sure. A liaison saying not specifically ACE, but that JCA, Joint Coordination Activity on Accessibility and Human Factors -- go ahead, Christian.

>> CHRISTIAN VOGLER: Yes, definitely, I think JCA should be involved. There's a huge impact that we have for accessibility. I definitely think we should --

>> ANDREA SAKS: Okay. Mohamed, could you say?

>> I just need some clarification what is communications to ITU relate to, actually.

>> ANDREA SAKS: Right. If you are a person who is disabled and you are living in your home, it can actually provide you with technology that would enable you not only to communicate with the outside world, your fridge could reorder what food you needed to have. These are fantasy dreams that are actually reality and can be done. Your mobile phone service could -- you put your mobile phone service on the table, it will flash up on the screen. If you had a mobility issue, you would be able to handle that. If you had a deaf issue, in other words, you could do that, where your house is connected to the grid, so to speak.

And these haven't been developed yet and deployed, but the ideas of smart cities.

Christopher -- Christian, do you want to say more? Go ahead.

>> CHRISTIAN VOGLER: And specifically for deaf and hard of hearing, there's applications of this that we are able to use today. So the flashing lights is something that we use currently. Fire alarms being -- I am getting notifications of fire alarms on my mobile phone, which vibrates and flashes a light to alert me. So some of these applications are already in use today.

>> Thank you, but the applications goes to accessibility for specific or just applications for everybody to use?

>> ANDREA SAKS: Both. We are finding out more and more that some of the applications specifically for persons with disabilities is also being adopted and used by mainstream society. An example of that is captioning. Captioning was actually opposed by the television set-making industry. They didn't want to have the extra expense of putting it in the machines, in the set-top boxes. More people today use captioning, and people who don't speak the language of the meeting, for instance, or the program use the captioning for understanding. And that's one of the big examples.

The flashing light syndrome, for the fire, you are asleep, you don't wake up with the noise, but you might wake up with flashing lights. Or vibrating beds. All these things can be deployed on a basis, and also for emergency services, where somebody has a mobile phone, and their location is not at their home and they are in trouble, these things can locate people. That could be for everybody, but it also could be for a deaf person who cannot communicate or a person who is paraplegic who cannot manage to do anything else.

These things are yet to be designed, but a smart city should think about that. And Xiaoya just had a wonderful area. We are going to send them the Accessibility Checklist. What do you think, Masahito? In the actual liaison. Actually, have you read the Accessibility Checklist? Okay. Homework! Why don't we make the suggestion that we welcome Question 20 and its arrival into the ITU and that we would just like Question 20 to take note of accessibility when designing infrastructure for smart cities, and please take note of the ITU-T Accessibility Checklist and design from the beginning -- we can just say universal -- and design with the intention of universal design. We will get some wording together, and maybe we can manage that.

Xiaoya, can you type something up?

>> XIAOYA YANG: Yeah, I am trying to show the checklist. But anyway, just for information to Mohamed, if you need, you can enter Accessibility in the ITU-T homepage, everything related. The Accessibility Checklist is a product produced by Study Group 16 and is to help the standards makers, the delegates here, to take into consideration the needs when they do standardization work. So I believe that's a very useful guideline for everybody, and especially for this new Study Group 20 at this moment. So we will send that in the liaison.

>> ANDREA SAKS: I think I would like to also -- again, this is with Masahito's input -- we could also add the links of the newly consented recommendations and technical papers, Masahito, and make a list. And what we'll do is that we'll write this, and then we will send the liaison out because we don't have the links for those. Or shall we keep those two separate and send that -- we can do this one now if we've all agreed and just send that and then do a second liaison sending the documents that we have consented to Study Group 20. The guidelines, the ones for accessible meetings, because --

>> XIAOYA YANG: It will be consented to this Friday?

>> ANDREA SAKS: Yeah.

>> XIAOYA YANG: I think we can do it together.

>> ANDREA SAKS: Okay. We will do it together. We can do it. If everybody is agreed. Okay. But you won't be here. You are here tomorrow?

>> XIAOYA YANG: Yes.

>> ANDREA SAKS: Okay. We will get it done.

Yes, Mohamed.

>> Just for my information, are we making this cooperation also with Study Group 13 for NGN?

>> ANDREA SAKS: I think it's a lovely idea. So we include Study Group 13 for NGN? Everyone? Masahito, do you have a thought on that?

>> MASAHITO KAWAMORI: I think anyone in ITU-T Study Group, they have to consider this; right?

>> ANDREA SAKS: Yes.

>> MASAHITO KAWAMORI: So if you want to do it, I don't have any objection.

>> ANDREA SAKS: Shall we just --

>> XIAOYA YANG: For this moment, we are talking about this new Study Group 20.

>> ANDREA SAKS: That's true. Study Group 13 does, in fact, know about the Accessibility Checklist, but I don't see any harm. We could do for action to Study Group 20 and for information to the rest? Or just do -- you would like to see it go to 13. Does anyone have any objection to it going to 13? If we do 13, we should do them all. But put a little introductory welcoming Study Group 20 and for the information of the other Study Groups, we -- what do you think?

>> MASAHITO KAWAMORI: Yeah, I think it's -- especially the meeting, I mean, AM and RemPart, I think they are very important for any group in ITU.

>> ANDREA SAKS: Yes, and accessible terms. All right. So those three plus the Accessibility Checklist.

>> MASAHITO KAWAMORI: Yes, I think, will be sent out to all Study Groups.

>> ANDREA SAKS: Okay. We'll do that.

>> MASAHITO KAWAMORI: That will be better, I think.

>> XIAOYA YANG: Then I am now starting to question my proposal before I said that we can do that together, but today we are talking about a liaison from JCA. But it seems the result of Study Group 16, better to do it just a liaison from Question 26. What do you think?

>> MASAHITO KAWAMORI: Well, that's also possible, but what do you think? I mean, if you want to send it out to not just ITU-T but ITU-D, you know, all the relevant groups, then I think JCA will be more appropriate. What do you think? I don't mind. Either way is okay.

>> XIAOYA YANG: We propose Question 26 to draft a text --

>> ANDREA SAKS: They closed. They can't do it.

>> MASAHITO KAWAMORI: We are already done, so I think this is the last opportunity for us to do it.

>> XIAOYA YANG: Okay, then.

>> MASAHITO KAWAMORI: I think JCA is okay.

>> ANDREA SAKS: We will do it through JCA.

>> MASAHITO KAWAMORI: Yeah.

>> ANDREA SAKS: And I think the fact that the JCA should raise its head in Study Group 20 would be a good idea and remind the other ones that we are still here cooking.

>> MASAHITO KAWAMORI: You know, I think it will be good to send it to W3C, you know, all the other organizations, since JCA is the coordination activity with the external bodies as well. So these three documents I think --

>> ANDREA SAKS: Didn't we already agree to do that in the --

>> MASAHITO KAWAMORI: I don't think so.

>> ANDREA SAKS: Forgive me. What is the liaison that I am writing?

>> MASAHITO KAWAMORI: Oh, yeah, that's right. Yeah, that one.

>> ANDREA SAKS: We've already covered that.

>> MASAHITO KAWAMORI: Covered W3C.

>> ANDREA SAKS: We covered all of that.

>> MASAHITO KAWAMORI: But I didn't think we agreed to put names like SG 13 or --

>> ANDREA SAKS: We didn't.

>> MASAHITO KAWAMORI: So what we can do, as Xiaoya said, we can expand the targets in 26.

>> ANDREA SAKS: Okay. We expand the targets. So that's actually covered, and the other Study Groups know about the Accessibility Checklist. Study Group 20 is new. In the liaison that we agreed to do in Question 26, we have agreed to send the other documents, so they will be covered. But they already know about that. We could -- I think I'd like to focus on Study Group 20 specifically to say hello, welcome. We exist, remember us, and make that the point. And in the liaison for Question 26, go from that. And you can always put don't forget to check the Accessibility Checklist. Or can we add that at that point?

I am supposed to write the text, so.

>> MASAHITO KAWAMORI: Yeah, okay.

>> ANDREA SAKS: Yeah, we can add that. Okay. It will all be covered between Question 26 liaison and the JCA, which is specifically for Question 20. Okay.

>> MASAHITO KAWAMORI: There are two issues, I think, actually. The three documents that we have created will be -- I mean, at this meeting -- will be more like umbrella requirements on meetings and things, so it's not just specific to SG 20. But because since SG 20 is a new group, they might not know how they make meetings and things. So in that sense, it's appropriate to include SG 20. This is a way you have to -- you know, you have meetings and things like that.

Another thing is this checklist. When they make recommendations, they have to consider these things, that these recommendations will be, you know, accessible. I mean, you know, describe things accessible to persons with disabilities. So there are two issues in SG 20 liaison, and all the others, just one.

>> ANDREA SAKS: Okay. I think that makes sense. Okay. As you want, we put the three new documents in. Yeah. Okay. We got it.

Now, I am going to take a break because the interpreters have been working very hard again, and this is the coffee break. It is 5 past 4:00. Because, again, of the time difference, and we are going to quit at 5:30, I think we can get through just about everything. I think we can. If we all come back at -- we take 20 minutes, would that be all right for everybody, we come back at 25 past 4:00? Would that be all right?

>> MASAHITO KAWAMORI: Do we have enough time covering all?

>> We are supposed to finish by 4:00.

>> ANDREA SAKS: 5:30. They are in here. We are fine. We are fine. It was for the demonstrations. That is what we were talking about. They are in the agenda. So we don't have to worry about that. Okay.

Right. So we are going to -- I will -- just a quick synopsis. When we come back -- we can make it -- no, it's 20 minutes. 20 minutes is fine. WHO meeting, I am going to give to you, the Royal National Institute for the Blind I will give to you. TDI will be fast. And we have had the World Federation for the Deaf already, for the moment. (Laughter).

>> MASAHITO KAWAMORI: Surprise.

>> ANDREA SAKS: A surprise. And I will briefly mention Singapore and the -- and Gerry can maybe talk briefly about the EDF, and then we've already had Christian Vogler doing that. And DeafKidz has canceled because they wanted to go early on and, of course, the surprise prevented that, but he will come back another time. And then we will listen with your eyes, we will do that one. And we are almost there, and whether or not we have time to do the Amazon review with deaf people for captioning video, we may eliminate that. We will see how the time goes.

Then we just have Liaison Statements and any other business and when we do the next meeting. So we are okay, I think, on time.

So I think the girls and guy need to have a bit of a break because they've been signing. So if we can time to come back at about 4:25. All right. We'll give you till 4:30. Okay. Let them rest. And thank you very, very much, interpreters and captioner, for having a kind of long stints. Okay. We'll be back in a few minutes. Bye-bye for the moment.

(Break taken.)

(Yes, sorry, my audio was disconnected, but I am back now.)

>> ANDREA SAKS: We will start now. I am terribly sorry, Junko, because I meant to have you say something about ITU-R because you are our representative from ITU-R are to the JCA, so please, will you give us your information from the ITU-R? Thank you.

>> Thank you, Chairman.

And for the side of ITU-R, I didn't have so much things to report, but now the Assembly meeting and the communication conference is approaching from next week, so we are now rushing to prepare for this meeting right now, and for the accessibility things, now we are preparing for some informative website for the persons with disabilities under RA and the W3C site, but now it's still ongoing because unfortunately, I got sick a few weeks ago and action didn't move for one week. So it was supposed to be prepared early this week, but it's a bit delayed, but now I am working on this.

And just for the brief explanation for the RA, radio Assembly, and the WRC, the world radio communication conference, our Radio Assembly is technological discussion for the Study Group, for approval of the ITU-R resolution and approval of the R2 recommendation and also the discussion about configuration of the Study Groups and election of the Chairman and Vice Chairman of the Study Group. And for the WRC, World Radio Communication conference, this is a discussion about frequency location. It's based on the radio regulations. So based on the agenda item, which was approved the previous World Radio Communication conference in 2012. They considered a new frequency allocation of the modification of the frequency allocation in the world.

So this is a brief explanation of the Radio Assembly and Radio Communication Assembly and also the World RadioCommunication Conference. If you have any questions about this meeting, I will be glad to accept it. Thank you.

>> ANDREA SAKS: Thank you, Junko. I have one. Isn't it on the agenda, number 10, that a Member State can request a new agenda item?

>> Junko: Normally the members can submit some contribution or proposal for the new agenda item for the next World Radiocommunication Conference.

>> ANDREA SAKS: Okay. Yesterday during the intersector Rapporteur group between Study Group 6 and ITU-R and Study Group 16 in ITU-T, we were told some history, that in 1997, even though it wasn't on the agenda, there was some spectrum granted to the mobile industry in the 700 area. We were also told that there was another situation, maybe three other situations, where a Member State proposed during the meeting that an agenda item be added historically, and it has happened in the past -- not many times, total, I think, of four times since 1997. Is there any way we can find out about this? Obviously, not today, but I would like information on that because, as you know, there has been a great deal of discussion about the mobile industry taking the spectrum on either side of 2.3-2.4.

And the problem is they are taking more spectrum and causing interference with ZigBee, Bluetooth, medical devices, and it all started with the hearing aid, the assistive listening devices.

And though the Arab Emirates initiated a resolution that is going into RA, the ultimate goal is to get WRC to recognize this problem in spite of the restrictions on how the agenda is decided.

Is there any way you can find out what happened in the past, where these exceptions were, and if there is any way that this topic can be brought to the attention of the world radio conference? Because this subject came up during IGR, audiovisual accessibility, and also during Question 26.

Thank you.

>> Junko: Thank you, Chairman. This kind of thing, something happened exceptionally as far as my understanding, and from me, I don't have any experience at the meeting, even though I attended it as a Japanese delegate in 2007, but basically, there will be a discussion based on the proposal from the country, and of course, not everything was chosen -- will be chosen as an item towards the next WRC. And so if there's some proposal from a country and also there are a lot of country that is support this proposal to be able to take an agenda item for the next WRC, maybe this might be also one of the reasons of the consideration. But anyway, next agenda item will be decided under the WRC conference discussion during the diversity meeting. So this is the only way to create some possibilities.

>> ANDREA SAKS: Thank you, Junko, but what we were told yesterday by members of ITU-R, both Christoph Dosch, who is Chairman of Study Group 6, and David Wood, who is connected with Study Group 6, and from EBU, that there have been exceptions in the past where an agenda item (Inaudible) possible. One was in 1997, not 2007.

The other three I don't have the information on (no audio)

>> ANDREA SAKS: -- regarding the agenda items of WRC, asking those questions now. Who would we send it to?

>> What do you mean about destination? Because ITU-R is --

>> ANDREA SAKS: A big thing.

>> yitR Study Groups or some BR or -- ITU-R Study Groups or some BR or --

>> I don't think it's useful to just send a liaison unless you know the particular person or the group that would discuss this. Or you go there in person. Because letters are letters. You can't convince them just in a letter.

>> ANDREA SAKS: Okay. Masahito, you're next.

>> MASAHITO KAWAMORI: Outside groups, is that the agenda you are on?

>> ANDREA SAKS: Yes, outside groups. And thank you, Junko, very, very much.

Okay.

>> MASAHITO KAWAMORI: So I will take up the two items on the list, the first two. The first one is WHO Safe Listening, the joint meeting on the 1st and 2nd of October 2015.

This is an ITU -- an initiative together with the ITU, and we discussed what Andrea just mentioned about the young people losing hearing because of listening to loud music for a long time.

So we gathered many experts and stakeholders, like Apple, sen Heiser, and other device manufacturers, as well as audiologists to discuss ways to standardize guidelines for those companies as well as individuals to improve the safety of listening.

And as a follow-up, the person in charge of this project in WHO came to ITU-T last week to the meeting of Question 28, Study Group 16, which is the eHealth group, and we decided to create a new work item on safe listening in Question 28 to collect information on this.

So we are working together to create a new work -- new recommendation on safe listening. This is the first one.

The second one is RNIB, Royal National Institute for the Blind, and they had a conference on audio description in London, in September, and Andrea and I were invited to participate, and we saw some demos and discussions on various areas of audio description, including use of synthesized voices, as well as audio descriptions in cinemas.

And that's about it. Thank you, Chairman. Madam Chair.

>> ANDREA SAKS: Thank you, Masahito.

Okay. We have had quite a lot from the World Federation for the Deaf, so other than Beat wanting to say anything else?

>> BEAT KLEEB: As you know, we have the Congress for the World Federation every four years, and this year's assembly was held in Istanbul, Turkey. We do have some informational -- information on digital access, and as Michael Johnson today acknowledged, ITU provided money for us to convert information onto digital memory sticks in order to then dispense to the member organizations.

Unfortunately, Turkish customs put a block on the boxes for customs coming through. So I actually still have the memory sticks, and I am giving them out as I go. Some people, as I encounter them, et cetera. And trying to disseminate the information about the ITU. So a lot of the booklets that we had are already out of print, but some of them are on the Internet. Some of them are on homepages, and some are on memory sticks.

That said, the Congress itself was very successful. We had 1300 participants in attendance. That actually is about half of the number we had at the last Congress, though. So when we look at ICT and its work, there has not yet been a lot of information coming from ICT to the Deaf world, but Congress has committed to putting presentations on their homepage for viewing. So once that's been done, I will let you know where that can be looked up, so you can see further information about the Congress at that time.

Thank you.

>> ANDREA SAKS: Thank you, Beat. And thank you again for the surprise and the award, and I've got it on. Thank you. I was surprised. Okay.

The next one is TDI. Can we do the link on TDI, please? TDI is the telecommunications for the Deaf, Inc., but it's also Telecommunications for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing. We can get it up and you can see.

Oh, sorry, Mohamed. Go ahead, please.

>> Just before moving to the next topic, I was searching through the Convention about the issue of the WRC. It seems to say there is a way for changing it, but it would be a little bit difficult. You need at least one quarter of the Member States to address the Secretary General, who will transmit to the Council for approval. Or on a proposal of the Council. So I am not sure if we have time to make one of these two ways.

>> ANDREA SAKS: Interesting. Thank you. I will go attack Howland Zhao tomorrow. He is a good guy.

>> He is not back until Monday.

>> ANDREA SAKS: Right. I will go talk to Malcolm Johnson. He owes me for doing that. I will take him hick cookies.

Thank you. That is brilliant. What page is that on?

>> Sorry. You can find it in the Convention in number 118.

>> ANDREA SAKS: 118. Okay. Convention 118. So that is how they did it. Okay. Right. Thank you.

>> Section 5.

>> ANDREA SAKS: Section 5. Okay.

Where are we? Oh, that TDI also had a convention, and it's mainly a U.S.-based deaf telecommunications-oriented group of deaf people and hard-of-hearing people who were very successful throughout the years. They originally did the teletypewriters for the deaf, which they received the donated surplus typewriters, then later changed their name to telecommunications and were responsible for, actually, a lot of the wording and writing in the Americans with Disabilities Act and later the 1995 Telecommunications Act. So that was held in Baltimore. I went. I had a blast. It was really good, and we don't have time to go into too many details, but it was a great event, and they only have them every two years.

Are we okay on that, or we had no captioning? We all right? Okay. Fine.

All right. The next one, I went and addressed the IEEE in Singapore about the past and also about how deaf telecommunications and how technology evolved with a history of persons with disabilities, and I met with many, many people. I met with Disabled People's Association, which is an organization that is funded totally by charitable donations and run by an amazing young woman, and they deal with everybody and everything.

Then I meat the Deaf Association of Singapore, who run a school and were also very interested. And I took with me ACE, the demo that you've seen a couple of times now, and showed a young lady by the name of Dr. Elaine strutton did the demonstration, and we gave them the same information. And there is a great deal of interest because they don't have a relay service, and we have a possibility of maybe starting one there.

Then Gerry, are you on the line? Gerry? Is Gerry there? Can you ring him back, please? Thank you. We'll come back to Gerry in a minute.

Okay. For the moment, till we get Gerry back, I think what we'd like to do, so we have plenty of time to do it, we'll come back to the EDF comment in a minute. I would like to do Yuzo Oshima's presentation from NPO for Persons with Disabilities, listen with your eyes on IPTV.

So would you like to come up here and speak out?

(Phone ringing)

>> ANDREA SAKS: Gerry, hang on. We will have you come on after this demonstration.

>> GERRY ELLIS: All right. No problem. Thank you.

>> ANDREA SAKS: Okay.

(Loud humming noise)

>> ANDREA SAKS: The captioner has a loud humming noise.

(Thank you, the noise is gone)

>> I am Yuzo Oshima, NPO for persons with disabilities, Japan, Executive Director. Sorry, only Japanese speaking.

Good afternoon, everyone, my name is Yuzo Oshima, and I am the Executive Director of Japan organization of CS broadcasting for people with disabilities. And our top executive, Mr. Takata, he is the  -- one of the Executive Board members of WFD.

Our service is basically providing the captioning, sign language, and audio description based on the Japanese government commission's project. And for the moment, we are the only provider of those services.

And I would like to show you two videos.

The first video is a part of our TV, listen with your eyes, and we have been running this service for 18 years, so we try to show one of the videos.

So the TV, Listen with your eyes, basically on the screen, we have PIP display method, and with that, you can see the sign language, captioning, and audio description.

Okay. I will try to begin the video.

>> Let me add something with Mr. Oshima's description of the service. It is not just PIP; but it's TV broadcast programs with sign language. So they add sign language on top of the normal TV programs.

>> YUZO OSHIMA: The video one, change the screen size of the broadcasting program to smaller, and then caption and sign language are synchronized.

>> So I just explained this. There is a {tertial? {nd above} program on the left-hand side, upper side, and then there is captioning with scrolling, and also the sign language interpreter's video. And they are now showing program with the report.

In the actual service, I think they also have the voice.

>> YUZO OSHIMA: In the actual program, we also have the audio.

>> Video two changes the screen size of a tertial broadcasting program to bigger, then sign language is chroma key synchronized. Chromakey is on top of the video itself, rather than outside of the program, but it's overlaid on top of the broadcast program. So you can see that -- so there are two ways to demonstrate -- I mean, to project the sign language interpreter.

The program is -- I think it's not a national broadcasting, but it's a commercial program.

Video 3, tertial broadcasting program with caption.

The last one is not shown. I think they will switch to another video.

>> YUZO OSHIMA: So the next video I will try to show you is our next-generation target IPTV service demonstration video.

>> It is in standard definition, but IPTV can provide higher definition with closed captioning. So the video shows high-definition program with closed captioning. This is some kind of festival in Kyoto.

>> YUZO OSHIMA: Yes, just to add some information, those people who are actually on the video, they are all belonging to the community of Deaf.

>> So the previous examples show that conventional broadcast, tertial broadcast programs are captioned, as well as sign language interpreted, but this one is from the very beginning made for the persons with disabilities by the persons with disabilities. So the -- I mean, not only the caption, but also the actors in the program are persons with disabilities.

Thank you very much. That's all.

(Applause)

>> ANDREA SAKS: Are there any questions? Don't go. Yes, question.

>> I do have one question. First of all, great demonstration. It was very clear what you are doing, very exciting.

I have a question for you about the coloring of the captions themselves and the very recent video that you showed, the -- in the very recent video that you showed, the background was very light. And the captionings were white as well. So it was very difficult to read them. So I wanted -- my question is can that be modified? Can you adjust the colors of the background and the font?

>> I will answer the question. As I demonstrated yesterday with IPTV, we can change the colors, as well as the background. Thank you.

>> ANDREA SAKS: Okay. Thank you. I got a little -- okay.

Gerry, can you give me -- sorry. Go ahead.

>> YUZO OSHIMA: Yes, actually, basically, what Mr. Kawamori already explained, but we can change the font color and the background color, and we can customize those things as an ACC profile has been agreed.

The user actually can do these things, can customize their own setting with the controller.

So thank you very much.

>> ANDREA SAKS: Thank you. Because there's 15 minutes left, I do want to just ask Gerry to give me three minutes on EDF, European Disability Forum, please. Gerry, are you there?

>> GERRY ELLIS: I am.

>> ANDREA SAKS: Okay. You've got three minutes on the EDF. Okay?

>> GERRY ELLIS: Okay. European Disability Forum is the umbrella group for organizations of people with disabilities throughout Europe. It represents 80 million people with disabilities. It's been very busy recently with many consultations. For instance, there was one on the review of the Audiovisual Media Services Directive. There's a current one on a draft report from the body of European regulators on electronic communications. And there's one coming up which is due by the start of December on the review of the -- big long name which I won't go into, but it's basically the single market in Europe. So it's busy doing all of those things.

The EDF has been told recently that it is looking promising that there will be an Accessibility Act for the whole of Europe which is due to be in place by the end of this year. I don't think EDF has seen the final version of it, but it is promised by the end of this year, so that could be exciting.

Just two weeks ago, I was in Ankur in Turkey, and it was translated as a conference (Inaudible). I think that was a bad translation. It was various aspects of society as related to people with disabilities in Turkey. I spoke about education and how access to education has changed over the last 30 or 40 years with the introduction of technology and how that touches social integration. That was my area.

Other areas that were prom meant from the uni Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities and public procurement. There were others, but those were the ones probably touched more often.

The other one that EDF is involved with at the moment is around trying to create an international standard or agreement on the accessibility of public procurement. There is now a European directive called EM301549. That's just the name of the directive which deals with the accessibility of public procurement in the area of ICTs in Europe.

In America, there is a view going on of Section 508 of the Rehabilitation Act, which does something similar for federal procurement in the States, and there is an attempt to come up with an international standard or an international agreement and how that will go ahead, and European -- the European Disability Forum is in contact with G3ict and others to try and get that moving.

I think I will leave it at that, in the interest of time. As you can see, EDF is very, very busy. I am not a spokesperson for EDF, but I have done a lot of work with them. Thank you for your time.

>> ANDREA SAKS: Thank you, Gerry. I hope you will continue to follow that for us and give us updates when we can get together at the JCA or even in emails.

I am going to move quickly on and do future events. I am not going -- we have a liaison, but I am going to do future events really quickly. We have the ones that are on the agenda, just to show --

>> You want to show the liaison; right?

>> ANDREA SAKS: We are going to do the liaison first. I forgot. Liaison first, then we will do that.

This is the liaison that Xiaoya has written to Study Group 20.

>> This is what we just proposed, that we will send a liaison to Study Group 20 to remind them about the accessibility should be taken into account in their work, and so this is what I just drafted before the coffee break, so don't mind about the format here. What I want you first to look at is the title of this liaison. Take accessibility into account and use universal design. This is what was proposed. But I am not sure whether that's what exactly we want to tell them to do. Does anyone have any better idea?

>> ANDREA SAKS: Is that an acceptable title? Masahito?

>> MASAHITO KAWAMORI: I think we can just say, like, request to consider accessibility in your work. Or study. I should say study. In SG 20's work.

>> ANDREA SAKS: Christian?

>> CHRISTIAN VOGLER: For accessibility and universal design.

>> ANDREA SAKS: Consider accessibility and universal design. That's a good idea. Can we do it that way? See what everybody thinks.

>> CHRISTIAN VOGLER: Request to consider accessibility and universal design.

>> ANDREA SAKS: Okay. Is that acceptable to everybody? Any other comments? Okay. That's the title. And if you would read the text, please.

>> XIAOYA YANG: ITU JCA-AHF, at their meeting on 21 October 2015, congratulates the establishment of ITU-T Study Group 20 and looks forward to success in your work on -- which is scope of Study Group 20. This is the first paragraph. And the second paragraph says that JCA-AHF would like to invite ITU Study Group 20 to join the effort of the JCA-AHF in mainstreaming accessibility into ITU-T standardization, take accessibility and universal design in consideration in your work as well as all other ITU Study Groups.

To facilitate you in this objective, please find some basic ITU tools to assist standards-makers which are available in the ITU-T accessibility portal and listed below. Here we have two, according to our website. The first one is the telecommunications Accessibility Checklist with a brief explanation saying this checklist assists experts developing technical standards to ensure that they are taking into account the needs of those to whom accessibility to ICTs are restricted. And second one is telecommunication accessibility guidelines for older persons and persons with disabilities. ITU-T Recommendation F.790. This recommendation gives guidance understanding the topic of accessibility and is a way that accessibility may be incorporated in ITU products and services.

>> ANDREA SAKS: Okay. Can we go back to --

>> XIAOYA YANG: This is actually --

>> ANDREA SAKS: We don't have time for that. Let's go up to the actual thing. I would say, as in all other study groups, we don't need to put that in there. Just take that out. Okay? And universal is misspelled. And I would like to add one thing. We said to join the effort in mainstreaming into ITU standards and appoint a liaison, because we have them for the other Study Groups.

>> XIAOYA YANG: To appoint a --

>> ANDREA SAKS: No, keep it as you've done it, and then go after, down, to standardization, and to appoint a liaison. That's it. Okay.

Does anybody else have any comments?

>> GERRY ELLIS: Andrea?

>> ANDREA SAKS: Yes, Gerry, go ahead.

>> GERRY ELLIS: Okay. As we are talking about standardization, should we include H sub 17?

>> ANDREA SAKS: No, I don't think so. We are talking about writing standards. I don't particularly want to -- I don't know. What does the group feel like? My opinion is no because it's a -- we want short, sweet stuff. Why don't you get the website and just put other things in it.

>> XIAOYA YANG: Yeah, for information to Gerry, indeed, the ITU-T accessibility portal has lots of other information, including Guide 71, which is ITU, you know, joint guide -- policy statement and the guide. Anyway, they can find things from that portal.

What is mostly useful I thought originally was only the Checklist, but I found it, anyway, F.790 was also there. If you don't believe that, even F.790 is necessary, we can actually remove F.790.

>> ANDREA SAKS: I think F.790 -- and Gerry, if we make too long of a list, they are not going to take anything into account. I agree with Xiaoya because Xiaoya is very much a minimalist, and I try to put too much in. I hope you don't take personal offense. They will find that. It's on there if they need that.

And Masahito, had you a comment. We are kind of running out of time.

I just want to ask if the captioner can work for another five minutes, please. And the interpreters can work for another five minutes, please, with this meeting. I meant five minutes past the hour. Five minutes past the half hour.

>> XIAOYA YANG: 7:35, you want them to stay until 7:35.

>> ANDREA SAKS: 1735.

>> XIAOYA YANG: 1735.

>> ANDREA SAKS: Right.

(Yes, the captioner is remain on)

Okay. That's fine. You are okay with that too. Okay. Now, I need to go back to the liaison. Masahito, you --

>> MASAHITO KAWAMORI: I was just going to say that you are asking for an action to join and appoint a liaison --

>> ANDREA SAKS: That's what we do. We do that normally.

>> MASAHITO KAWAMORI: Okay.

>> ANDREA SAKS: Everybody in all the Study Groups has a liaison. They don't always come, but we are going to start jerking them. So if that's okay, we can send that off. Does anybody have any objection?

Okay. Done.

We have one other liaison, which is the cybersecurity on Internet --

>> XIAOYA YANG: That is an incoming one. We are talking about an outgoing one. We agreed on an outgoing liaison, now we come back to the agenda, there is an incoming liaison.

>> ANDREA SAKS: That is correct. Can we pop that up?

>> XIAOYA YANG: Just for information. I think we can simply skip it.

>> ANDREA SAKS: Okay, Xiaoya. I told you, Xiaoya is a minimalist.

>> XIAOYA YANG: Yes, here, as you can see, we thanked JCA-AHF for information.

>> ANDREA SAKS: We can just note that. We don't have to respond to that.

I just want to quickly look at future events. And there is -- Xiaoya, can you briefly mention that, and I have one that Masahito has sent me.

>> XIAOYA YANG: Yeah, you see under the future events list, there is one, it's all put in chronological order, and the first one coming up, which is next week, it is our Asia-Europe Meeting on Disability Cooperation, and this one is organized by Chinese Disabled Peoples Foundation, which is also representing 18 million disabled people in China. And the ITU ITU will send -- Mr. Rinehart chose the Deputy Director and me to attend this event, and we will see whether we can bring them into the ITU to work together on accessibility.

The next one, IGF.

>> ANDREA SAKS: Yeah.

>> XIAOYA YANG: I can also go quickly because this has been reported to the previous JCA meeting already. We know that there will be a workshop organized -- jointly organized by DCAD and G3ict, and there will also be a physical meeting of the DCAD during the annual IGF event.

So tomorrow there will be another preparation eMeeting about the DCAD for this event. Anyone interested can join the DCAD mailing list and participate in the eMeeting tomorrow if they are interested.

>> ANDREA SAKS: And we heard from Susan Schorr already about the Accessible Americas II, and that's the 4th and 6th of November, which is next month.

And I have another one which is not on there, but we'll do a red one and make sure it's added, that there is the Symposium on Media Accessibility, IPTV for awl now in Tokyo, Japan, and it's organized by the IPTV accessibility consortium. Excuse me. ITU  -- IPTV-ACC prop, based accessibility services will be discussed by accessibility experts, as well as representatives of persons with disabilities organizations. So we will put that in the new agenda when we redo it.

(Coughing)

Excuse me.

And I think -- is there any other business? I think we've covered everything. I have eliminated the Amazon -- excuse me. My lung has never quite recovered from that horrible stuff.

We eliminated talking about the Amazon reaches the deal with deaf rights groups on captioning and videos, and we were going to talk about it, but we simply don't have time, but the link is there within the agenda, which will be posted on the JCA page in the documents section.

So is there any other business?

>> XIAOYA YANG: I just want to mention that we invited a presentation from DeafKidz International, but unfortunately, that person had a conflict in the timing and he couldn't join us this time. And he promised to join us next time in person to the JCA meeting.

>> ANDREA SAKS: Thank you, Xiaoya.

Any other business?

Okay, Christian?

>> CHRISTIAN VOGLER: This is Christian speaking. I would just like to quickly mention AT&T and their real-time text demonstration. I'd like to know if we are going to do anything about that because I was impressed with the concept of real-time text and potentially affiliated that with ACE relay services and also with 3GPP in terms of standards. So hopefully that will happen. So I just want to know if we want to add anything about that.

>> ANDREA SAKS: You've got three minutes.

>> CHRISTIAN VOGLER: It's a big topic. I am not quite sure where to start, then.

Basically, AT&T is moving forward aggressively on these options in the U.S., so they have a fairly open procedure. They are doing investigations and research, looking into how that works with real-time text and doing that based on standards.

So they are using 2.T.140/RTC413. And they've also got specifics in 3GPP standardization. So it's just really important to make sure that future text-based services are compatible with that. Also to make sure that ACE is going to be compatible with what they come out with. We expect at this stage that ACE will be compatible, but it's just something to keep note of and look forward to in the future.

>> ANDREA SAKS: Thank you, Christian. And if you note earlier in the agenda, you will see that Miss Alvarez of AT&T U.S. real-time text, there is a presentation, and there is a link to go to that particular document, and I believe those are open. If anybody has trouble getting them, why, we will be very happy to make sure that you are provided with that.

The next issue, if there isn't any other business, is when we are going to do the next JCA-AHF meeting. Do we know when Study Group 2 is?

>> XIAOYA YANG: I think so.

>> ANDREA SAKS: When is it?

>> XIAOYA YANG: March?

>> ANDREA SAKS: We used to be collocated with Study Group 2 more than Study Group 16 when we were under the umbrella of Study Group 2. We are now under the umbrella of TSAG, which is the Telecommunication Standardization Advisory Group.

>> XIAOYA YANG: January.

>> ANDREA SAKS: In January. It's possible that we could do that, but we have not asked -- if we were able to organize a meeting between -- what is the date? -- the 20th through the 29th of January, what we would like to do -- because it's very difficult to plan and I don't know what everybody's doing and nobody does it at the end of the year -- we would like the option for all of you to be able to -- to have a place. We'll try and plan the next meeting for January during that time because I know that Floris is in the Netherlands, who is still on. Floris, you wanted to have something in the Study Group 2. I think we will try and do that. Do you want to speak? Sorry? He's still on mine. He is still on mine. Why is he not connected? When that happens, will you inform me and reconnect him immediately or figure out a way?

I am sorry. Can you use the mic?

>> Excuse me. I cannot connect him from here. He has to connect himself from his own end, or otherwise I can call him if he gives me his number.

>> ANDREA SAKS: Right. His hand is up. Floris -- well, I am sorry. Next time somebody has a problem and you see that, can you immediately notify me by raising your hand? I don't know that we can call you immediately now because we have about two or three minutes left. Can you type in the Chat box if you would like a meeting in Study Group 2, please. And I will try and do. Floris Van Nes is typing.

>> XIAOYA YANG: Do we know when will be next Study Group 16 meeting?

>> ANDREA SAKS: The Study Group 16 meeting, Masahito?

>> MASAHITO KAWAMORI: The end of May and beginning of June.

>> ANDREA SAKS: Because I think that's too long to wait. So I think if the group is in agreement, I will try and arrange that and let you know the dates in accordance with -- don't type too long. (Laughter). Give me just a yes or a no.

He says of course.

>> MASAHITO KAWAMORI: Who is that person, Andrea? Who is that person?

>> ANDREA SAKS: Floris Van Nes, who is the Vice Chair of the JCA, who is in the Netherlands, who normally -- did we get anything? He's not sending. You have to transmit. Floris, hit the transmit button.

Yes, I know that Question 4 can meet. Yes, I can be on it.

We will try to Coe locate since it will be too long to wait until '16, and we will probably have one in '16 also. So what I will do is try to organize, come back to you and find out what day Question 4 will be meeting so that we collocate and have a JCA meeting at that particular time. We will also Coe locate with the next Study Group 16 meeting. If that is in agreement to everybody, we will arrange dates via correspondence.

He says 26/27. Okay, Floris, we will come back to you on that, and I think that works, and if there is anything else that anybody wants to say.

Okay. Thank you very much. It's been a very unusual meeting. Thank you, everybody, for all the crazy stuff and the interpreters for going above and beyond the call of duty and doing three sign -- three different language translations from America sign language, British sign language, and International Sign. And I thank the captioner also for doing a great job. And our remote moderator, Erenik -- please say your name in the mic so we learn it for next time.

>> So it's Erenik Yzeiraj.

>> ANDREA SAKS: Got it. Okay. Thank you very much. And thank you, everyone, for coming and participating. The meeting is now closed.

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