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ITU‑T

MAY 21, 2020

8:00 A.M. CST

ITU‑T RAPPORTEURS MEETING OF ITU‑T SG16

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(captioner standing by)

 >> ANDREA SAKS: Can you hear me?

>> I can hear you.

 >> ANDREA SAKS: Oh, good. My screen isn't opening properly.

I just have this weird thing that says join audio, share screen ‑‑

What do I do?

 >> ANDREA SAKS: Oh! I see an interpreter.

 >> INTERPRETER: Indeed. It's Mo.

 >> ANDREA SAKS: Hi, Mo. Okay. We're in business. Now Kaoru is on. Kaoru, can you hear me?

 >> KAORU MIZUNO: Hi, Andrea.

 >> ANDREA SAKS: Hi. Are you going to be okay in doing the documents? How are you?

 >> KAORU MIZUNO: I'm okay. Thank you. Yes. I will present the document.

 >> ANDREA SAKS: Oh, thank you. Thank you very, very much. Now, is my video on? It isn't. I suppose it must be, so Start video.

 >> MATJAZ DEBEVC: Hello. Hello.

 >> ANDREA SAKS: I'm not going to stay on because I don't want to make the bandwidth overused, so I'm going to go back off, so I won't start my video.

And also, Matjaz ‑‑ oh, he's gone. Right. He's gone. Where is Christopher? We're still a bit early. We're working and we don't start for another 10 minutes.

 >> MATJAZ DEBEVC: I'm not gone. I'm just ‑‑ I do not want to make bandwidth too much. Okay?

 >> ANDREA SAKS: That's okay. It's okay. Thank you. Thank you. Okay. Right.

We have 10 minutes. Mo, glad you're bright and early. Where is Christopher? He'll get on some time.

 >> INTERPRETER: I'm not responsible for Christopher, only myself.

 >> ANDREA SAKS: Nor is anyone. No one is. (Laughing).

 >> INTERPRETER: I'm going to just cover my camera until we're ready to go.

 >> ANDREA SAKS: Perfect. Perfect. Don't you worry. Thank you very much.

 >> INTERPRETER: Okay.

 >> ANDREA SAKS: Hi. Olaf!. Can you hear me? You have no sound.

>> OLAF: Loud and clear. Loud and clear.

 >> ANDREA SAKS: Great. I'm going to ask you. It's great to see you. Those of us that don't need sign language are not going to use the video for the bandwidth, but it's nice that you showed yourself. Everybody, this is Olaf! Wave to everybody!

Okay. All right. Okay. Would you turn off your video and just do audio. Thank you.

>> I just finished a talk and we had closed captioning there on Zoom, pretty much like you're doing right now.

 >> ANDREA SAKS: Okay.

 >> GENT: Hello, everyone. This is Ghent. I hope you can hear me. I have just a small short message for the sign language interpreters, if it's possible for you to rename yourselves by putting your first name and last name, and in brackets if it's BSL or ASL interpreter, it will just be easier for us to identify you and easier for the final participant list in the end. Thank you very much.

 >> ANDREA SAKS: Hi, Ghent.

 >> INTERPRETER: This is one of the interpreters, Mo. I'm sorry, you're asking me to put my name where?

 >> GENT: So your name is very good. If you can just after your name add in brackets if you're BSL or ASL interpreter.

 >> INTERPRETER: I think that will require me coming out and resetting up my Zoom.

 >> GENT: No. No.

>> Go to ‑‑

 >> GENT: Yes, okay, maybe Olaf can explain, no.

>> Go to participants, look up your name, tap on your name and write the addition.

 >> GENT: Yes. You can easily change your name by clicking on the name on Participants and you have the option to rename.

 >> INTERPRETER: It's not giving me that option. I'm sorry.

>> On Participant's.

 >> INTERPRETER: Oh, right. I found it. I found it. Okay. What do you want me to have?

 >> GENT: Just write after your name if you're ASL or BSL and interpreter. I see Jen put it on there. Thank you very much.

 >> INTERPRETER: No problem.

 >> INTERPRETER: Just to let you know the second BSL interpreter isn't joining until 3:00 so he.

 >> ANDREA SAKS: Can you send them a message, Jenni or Mo?

 >> INTERPRETER: Yes, I'll send it. I'll send him a message.

 >> ANDREA SAKS: Hi. Oliver. Oliver, we're going to. Oliver, we're going to ask people not to have videos on because we have two sets of sign language interpreters. It's fine. I can understand. Okay. So everybody this is Oliver. And there is Mo, and we'll start in about 3 minutes.

Go ahead, Christopher. Can you wait until we start?

Thank you. Okay.

 >> DAVID FOURNEY: Morning, everyone. David here.

 >> ANDREA SAKS: We have two more minutes. Two more minutes.

 >> DAVID FOURNEY: Andrea, can I make an instruction for future, make sure the instructions for changing the name that the instructions are sent out.

 >> ANDREA SAKS: We'll talk about revising remote participation, the document, and when the time comes, will you mention that at the appropriate moment?

 >> DAVID FOURNEY: Sure. No worries. I'm just adding it to a personal recommendation with you.

 >> ANDREA SAKS: No. I know. I'll remember it, but I also want it to be official and we're not really ‑‑ well we sort of are, I think. Let me just check to make sure I have captioning up somewhere.

Just a minute.

Lidia? Can you copy ‑‑ is Simao on? I need a copy of the captioning up. I seem to have lost it on one of my browsers. Let me check.? I need a copy of the captioning up. I seem to have lost it on one of my browsers. Let me check?

 >> LIDIA BEST: What do you want you need to copy. Can you explain?

 >> ANDREA SAKS: How many browsers do you have on your PC? All right. Just a minute. Just a minute. Nevermind. I'll do it.

I'm just trying to do it.

 >> GENT: For your information, I have just put the link of the StreamText in the chat.

 >> ANDREA SAKS: Oh, thank you! Thank you very much. I will do it that way. Perfect. That's perfect. Okay. Just a minute. I'm going to put it on here.

Oh, it won't. I can't get it to do it. Just a minute.

I can't understand who is talking, please, just a minute.

 >> GENT: Olaf, please mute yourself. Olaf, please mute yourself.

 >> ANDREA SAKS: Simao, hi. Are you copying the captioning? I can't seem to do it.

 >> SIMAO CAMPOS: I'm sorry, what you're saying? Copying what?

 >> ANDREA SAKS: Normally I have two prawsers up and I can't.

 >> SIMAO CAMPOS: Put the URL on the side and you cannot copy and open.

 >> ANDREA SAKS: I try to put it in another browser and it screws up. I can't do it. There is something wrong with my computer. I'm very fortunate that I have everything as far as Zoom is concerned. Can you just put it in another browser? So that we have a copy of the captioning so that I can look at it.

 >> SIMAO CAMPOS: We only receive it at the end of the day. Don't worry about that.

 >> ANDREA SAKS: Okay. I won't worry about that.

 >> SIMAO CAMPOS: At the end of the day, I think we will have a copy. Don't worry.

 >> ANDREA SAKS: Thank you. Okay. We're going to start the Joint Coordination Activity on Accessibility and Human Factors. My name is Andrea Saks, and I am the Chairman of this particular group.

For those of you who do not know, this is a coordination group between the three sectors tracking what's going on in accessibility, not just in the T sector with Question 26, but also in the R Sector with Study Group 4 regarding broadcasting and also in the D sector which is accessibility Question 7 for telecommunications to developing countries.

So we've got that, and I'd like to do a role call. I've got 26 participants.

 >> SIMAO CAMPOS: Andrea, before you start would all the participants have a meaningful name in the list of participants, for example, Judy, if she could put the family name, and those that are performing as interpreters, sign language interpreters, if they could also add that information. Thank you.

 >> ANDREA SAKS: Yes. With the interpreters, can I just say if you're ASL or BSL as Gent requested earlier today.

All right. So what we're going to try to do is to go through what some of the things that have transpired. Masahito Kawamori, are you on, just to check?

No. He's not there yet. All right. Just a moment. I'll get to that in a second.

So, first of all, before I go into the agenda and everything else, could we have a role call, please. If you see your name at the top, the top name is me and then there is Gent who is our tech genius, and Kaoru who is our Secretariat, and so if you would like to say, hello, and Simao who was just speaking, and so go ahead and do that, and start ‑‑ just go through the list that you have. That you can see on your screen so you know which is the order.

>> I'm sorry, Andrea, I believe the list might be different for everyone.

 >> ANDREA SAKS: Oh, then we won't do that.

 >> GENT: It's best you call it, Andrea.

 >> ANDREA SAKS: Okay. I'll do it that way. Hold on so I can get this large because I'm having trouble doing that. Let me just do that.

Okay. Gent is on, Kaoru, Simao. David Fourney, are you on?

 >> DAVID FOURNEY: I'm here. Yes.

 >> ANDREA SAKS: Okay. I'm just going through the role call for the record.

Captioner‑Sarah could you please put your last name up and which sign language you're doing for an identifier.

Is Christian Vogler here?

 >> CHRISTIAN VOGLER: Yes, I'm here. Hi.

 >> ANDREA SAKS: Christopher Jones, we can see you. Daniel Hark, you're here., Dusan Caf.

>> Yes. I'm here. Can you hear me?

 >> ANDREA SAKS: Yes. You're good. Eric, are you here? I can't hear you.

Are you going to respond by text rather than by voice? (Erich Kofmel).

>> Yes, he's responded in the chat.

 >> ANDREA SAKS: Simao, can you be the remote moderate forethe chat box because we haven't had that recently and we need to, if we have a participant who is going to respond to the meeting only by text, so can you keep an eye on that and stop me if we need to deal with that, please.

 >> SIMAO CAMPOS: I will stay only for a limited amount of time, so I would rather not take that task on.

 >> ANDREA SAKS: Okay. I don't know who can do that. Let me just think.

 >> LIDIA BEST: I can be a moderator. Lidia speaking.

 >> ANDREA SAKS: Lidia, you got the job. Thank you very, very much. Okay. All right. Perfect.

Erich, Lidia will monitor your comments in the Chat Box for you.

Ethan Brooks is here.

 >> ETHAN: Hi, Andrea?

 >> ANDREA SAKS: I'm sorry, you're there?

 >> ETHAN: Yes, I'm here.

 >> ANDREA SAKS: Thank you. Jenny Thomas, ASL interpreter.

 >> INTERPRETER: Here.

 >> ANDREA SAKS: We know Lidia is here. Are.

 >> INTERPRETER: Here.

 >> LIDIA BEST: Andrea, also Cerich Kofmel confirms he's present but he's only writing in chat or typing in chat.

 >> ANDREA SAKS: That's correct. That's why you're monitoring the chat box as the remote moderator. Thank you. M so then we have Matjaz, and I'm not going to say it right,.

 >> MATJAZ DEBEVC: Yes, I'm here and welcome.

 >> ANDREA SAKS: Okay. Thank you. Mia is on, and Maya, can you put after your name which language you're interpreter, BSL or ASL, please.

>> Hi. This is Maya, but I'm not interpreting I'm participating.

 >> ANDREA SAKS: That's right! Thank you very much. Maya is I don't know whether to call you the head, chief, President or Chairman.

>> Coordinator of the IE sign language network.

 >> ANDREA SAKS: Thank you, Maya, lovely to hear you again!

>> Same.

 >> ANDREA SAKS: Now I've lost my place again. Okay. Mo is a BSL interpreter and we know she's there. Olaf is on. Are you there? Can we hear you?

>> OLAF: Yes, I'm here.

 >> ANDREA SAKS: Oliver, are you there?

>> OLIVER: Hi. Yes, I'm here.

 >> ANDREA SAKS: Thank you. Your sound is good. Now, Pradeep, are you there and can you speak?

>> PRADEEP: Yes, Andrea, that's correct. I'm here.

 >> ANDREA SAKS: Would you say your name properly for me?

>> PRADEEP: It's Pradeep.

 >> ANDREA SAKS: Not that name. I know the first name, the last name.

>> PRADEEP: BLAACHANDRAN, and PRADEEP.

Sabine, are you there?

>> SABINE: Yes, hello. I'm here. Hello to everyone.

 >> ANDREA SAKS: Hi. And then we have Grigory, you are there? Can we test your sound?

His mic is not on.

 >> GRIGORY MILORADOV: I'm here.

 >> ANDREA SAKS: Oh, good. Fine. Thank you.

We have Yong Lee? Can we test your mic please, Yong?

 >> YONG JICK LEE: Hello. Can you hear me?

 >> ANDREA SAKS: Yep.

 >> ANDREA SAKS: Where is Daniel?

 >> YONG JICK LEE: He's gone for a minute but he'll come back.

 >> ANDREA SAKS: All right. Fine. I'll trust his mic works too. Judy, can you make your mic work?

 >> GENT: It seems she does not have microphone enabled, and the same with Seth, so Seth should be through the interpreter only.

 >> ANDREA SAKS: Yes. Okay. Fine. That's fine. Masahito, you are on. Great. Masahito Kawamori is our Question 26 Rapporteur, and Seth works for Sprint Relay Services for the deaf community in the United States.

 >> SETH BRAVIN: Hello. This is Seth speaking. Good morning.

 >> ANDREA SAKS: Thank you, Seth.

Judy if you don't have the microphone enabled, if you type into the chat box your messages will be relayed by voice by Lidia. I think we've got everybody, is there someone that I didn't mention that needs to say hello?

Okay. If you wish to speak, do me a kindness and use the hand‑raising technique, please. It's a big long list, so I will try and get people in the right order. It may be a little tricky because there are so many of you, so Lidia, can you help me with that as well?

 >> LIDIA BEST: Yes, I can.

 >> ANDREA SAKS: Okay. Great. All right. Fine. So I think we are kind of in order. Right.

The first 15 minutes ‑‑ does everybody have the captioning.

 >> ANDREA SAKS: All right. Fine the first 15 minutes, does everyone have the captioning okay? Now, the first 15 minutes are going to be devoted to Question 26 to finish the work ‑‑ this is a Joint Meeting with Question 26 that was not completed yesterday, and so I'd like to turn over the floor to Masahito Kawamori. Masahito, are you there?

 >> MASAHITO KAWAMORI: Yes, I'm here.

 >> ANDREA SAKS: All right. So the floor is yours.

 >> SIMAO CAMPOS: He needs to be made presenter to show your screen.

 >> MASAHITO KAWAMORI: Okay. Thank you.

 >> MASAHITO KAWAMORI: Okay. Thank you.

 >> DAVID FOURNEY: A reminder so when you change your screen you don't change out the view of the interpreters.

 >> MASAHITO KAWAMORI: Okay.

 >> DAVID FOURNEY: While we're waiting, this is David Forney here I just want to comment that today is Global Accessibility Day so happy day to all of you, and it's great to see that we're working together on this global problem. Thank you.

 >> SIMAO CAMPOS: Since you are the host, can you make Masahito the presenter, please?

 >> KAORU MIZUNO: Yes.

 >> ANDREA SAKS: Thank you Simao and thank you Kaoru. This is beyond me at the moment to do any of this and I'm grateful to the both of you. This is Andrea speaking.

 >> MASAHITO KAWAMORI: You said the whole screen?

 >> SIMAO CAMPOS: Masahito, do you have the option to share screen on the Zoom desktop?

 >> MASAHITO KAWAMORI: Yeah, I'm trying to find ‑‑ it has tabs, browsers and things, but not the whole ‑‑

 >> DAVID FOURNEY: David here. Masahito, it will be the very first screen option you have on your list, are so it will be on the top left. That will be your full desktop.

 >> MASAHITO KAWAMORI: This one? The full desktop.

 >> MASAHITO KAWAMORI: This one? Okay. So I'd like to start the review of the documents. I just wanted to clarify which documents we have produced at this meeting, so liaison statement to SG2.

So the first one is this liaison statement which is Document Number 19 and this draft has been distributed last night, and some people, especially David commented on it and, you know, it's in good shape so I'd like to post it.

There is a technical paper, FSTP‑AV‑NAVDEV the initial draft for the issues and recommendations for the design of inclusive audio and visual‑based navigation systems for individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities.

Can you see this? Can I make this a little bigger?

So this is ‑‑ I hope you can see it.

 >> ANDREA SAKS: You'll lose the interpreters if you make the document bigger, but I think ‑‑

 >> MASAHITO KAWAMORI: I don't think so, but anyway, yeah, I don't think I can enlarge it because of the browser.

We also have the FSTP‑ACC‑WebVRI First draft of Technical Paper FSTP‑ACC Web VRI guidelines on web‑based remote sign language interpretation which is Document 15‑R1 and it has an Annex which I accidently put as an independent document which is justification for FSTP‑AC C‑web WEBVRI and we also have humanitarian global network and services for global accessibilities for persons with disabilities, which is a new Draft Recommendation and this is Document Number 14 and it has an A.1 justification as part of the Annex of the original contribution ‑‑ Contribution Number 6‑R1 has an Annex cleaning the A.1, which will be incorporated in my Meeting Report at the end of this meeting.

And we also have produced the could you tell put document F.ACC‑AS framework for audio sign for persons with vision impairment, and this is updated as of this meeting.

So these are the documents that we produced from this meeting, and they will be captured in my Meeting Report.

There are some text which have been collected by Lidia, I think, and one is information collected on configuring Zoom for sessions with remote sign language interpretation.

This is the one that Lidia was talking about yesterday, so if Lidia can explain the nature of this document? Lidia?

 >> LIDIA BEST: Okay. I am here. Thank you, Masahito. This document is simply a compilation of email discussions between sign language users, Christian, Christopher, and Seth. All of them sharing their experiences and tips on how to work effectively with Zoom, especially Zoom because we are using it now, and hopefully this could be a document which could have a good information for anyone to look at when we are struggling between the ITU as well in understanding how to set up meetings when sign language users and interpreters are involved. Thank you.

 >> MASAHITO KAWAMORI: Okay. Thank you. And we have two new Work Items proposed by ‑‑ well one work item what we call it joint text or twin text ISO/IEC ‑‑ SC35 has provided us a new work item to work on jointly and it has an A.1 justification as Document number 11. David and Simao, do you have any comments on this document?

 >> DAVID FOURNEY: Yeah, so I added, with the assistance of Simao, thank you very much, the Appendix 2 to Doc 11 providing the justification for the new work item and I look forward to seeing a publication by July. Thank you.

 >> MASAHITO KAWAMORI: Thank you. Okay. So these are the documents that we will be producing at this meeting, and I just want to take a look at the liaison statement because we didn't discuss them yesterday.

 >> MASAHITO KAWAMORI: Okay. So this is the Liaison Statement to SG2 to report on our work on this Humanitarian Global Networks and services for global accessibility for persons with disabilities, and also acts for collaboration regarding numbering and identifiers. And we're sending it to JCA‑AHF for information. Maybe we can send it to OCHA as well?

 >> ANDREA SAKS: I think that's a excellent idea.

 >> MASAHITO KAWAMORI: And the text is like this. It is our pleasure to inform that you ITU‑T Study Group 16 Question 26 has held a successful meeting on 18‑20 May 2020. I'm sorry.

During this meeting we discussed a contribution from World Global Telecom and agreed to create a new draft recommendation for humanitarian global networks and services for global accessibility for persons with disabilities. As we all know people all over the world has been affected by coronavirus disease 2019 pandemic, and Secretary‑General of the United Nations Mr. Antonio Guterres said the world's 1 billion people living with disabilities are among the hardest hit by COVID‑19. They face a lack of accessibility public health information, significant barriers to implement basic hygiene measures. We need to reach out and provide means to help provide a vital, essential information very rapidly, especially for persons with disabilities. The proposed new draft recommendation is expected to create the necessary framework for humanitarian global networks and services necessary for various potential humanitarian projects, and in particular it would immediately enable the provision of global digital telecommunications platform, GLEOSS, designed to meet the specific needs of people with disabilities worldwide during this emergency.

Humanitarian Global Networks and Services could have the first and rapid implementation in the form of GLEOSS based on WGT having performed successful trials in several countries. Now WGT reported to be working with several Asian countries such as the Philippines and with the countries in the EU to help through global telephone numbers to provide accessible services to persons with disabilities, including telecom relay service with conferencing and simultaneous multi‑language interpretation.

Experts of Q26/16 expressed strong support to this initiative and to the very idea of Humanitarian Global Networks and Services framework helping to improve the global accessibility for persons with disabilities, especially to emergency calls. This subject matter ‑‑ will be further developed at Question 26/16 and the session agreed that Question 26/16 should initiate active communication inside ITU to support this work and promote communication from ITU towards the UN and in particular UN OCHA, to raise the level of awareness ‑‑

And support.

Since this draft recommendation brought if had by WGT concerns numbering plans, Question 26/16 would like to share the contribution through this liaison statement and hope that SG2 will pay special attention to this document and to work with Q26/16 to expedite the process of approving it so that ITU can provide essential tools to help persons with disabilities worldwide to survive this emergency COVID‑19 pandemic.

Any questions?

Hello?

Can you hear me?

 >> SIMAO CAMPOS: Yes, we can hear you.

 >> ANDREA SAKS: Hang on. Can you hear me now?

 >> MASAHITO KAWAMORI: Yes.

 >> ANDREA SAKS: Oh, thank you. I do have ‑‑ we forgot two groups in ITU. One is Study Group 20 in ITU‑T because we actually have Yong as a participant and they are doing work with accessibility within Study Group 20.

And, also, in ITU‑D we have Study Group 1 Question 7, and if they could be added, that would be great.

I don't know which group should be for ITU‑R, but it is ‑‑ I believe it's Study Group 4.

But I can check that.

 >> LIDIA BEST: Can I say something?

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

 >> LIDIA BEST: Okay. Lidia speaking. In the chat box David is saying that this is not the most recent document discussed yesterday.

 >> MASAHITO KAWAMORI: Oh, really?

 >> DAVID FOURNEY: Yeah, so ‑‑

 >> MASAHITO KAWAMORI: I thought this was the one that you sent. I'm sorry.

 >> DAVID FOURNEY: David speaking. The last one that was sent was last night at ‑‑ I'm just looking at it or looking for it now.

Last night at 4:03 p.m. Eastern Standard Time so that would have been approximately 9:00 p.m. UTC. I think but I might have the math wrong.

 >> MASAHITO KAWAMORI: Okay, so can you point to the ‑‑ what you wanted to change?

 >> DAVID FOURNEY: It should be the last email you received interest me last night, Masahito. You should be able to see it in your inbox. That's the most recent version of this document that we discussed.

 >> MASAHITO KAWAMORI: I thought this is the last one. I copied it. Which one you don't think would be right?

This is the last one that I got from you.

 >> DAVID FOURNEY: No, Masahito, I sent my most recent version was sent to you ‑‑ it was sent to your gmail account at 4:03 p.m. eastern time yesterday, and there were a couple of the typos that I'm seeing on the screen that you have were fixed in that copy. And there were some clarity on some of the text as well. I mean, it doesn't matter one way or the other, but I want you to be aware that what we're looking at isn't the most recently discussed paper from yesterday.

 >> MASAHITO KAWAMORI: Okay. But it seems to be ‑‑ I'm actually looking at it ‑‑

 >> SIMAO CAMPOS: Masahito, I just forward to you just in any case that email that David is referring to. I just sent it.

 >> DAVID FOURNEY: Can you scroll down, please. Let me just see the next paragraph.

 >> MASAHITO KAWAMORI: Yeah.

 >> DAVID FOURNEY: Yeah. Okay. Yes. Earlier you turned off the updates so it wasn't clear to me that certain changes were there. You are correct. I stand corrected. Thank you very much.

 >> MASAHITO KAWAMORI: Grigory?

 >> GRIGORY MILORADOV: Yes? Yes? I'm here.

 >> MASAHITO KAWAMORI: Do you have any comments.

 >> GRIGORY MILORADOV: No. Thank you very much. We completely support this reflects what has been discussed, basically.

 >> MASAHITO KAWAMORI: Okay. Thank you. And we will add and attach the draft new recommendation.

 >> GRIGORY MILORADOV: Yes. Definitely.

 >> MASAHITO KAWAMORI: Okay. Simao, which one will be appropriate, the draft or the contribution?

 >> SIMAO CAMPOS: You have another document with the latest version, right?

 >> MASAHITO KAWAMORI: Yes. It's uploaded. Yes.

 >> SIMAO CAMPOS: Yes, so that one I suppose. Thank you.

 >> MASAHITO KAWAMORI: Okay. Thank you. Then I think it's done.

If no other comments so far, then I would like to close the meeting of Question 26 and I will publish the Meeting Report and distribute it among you so that you can make comments after this meeting.

Okay. Thank you very much, Question 26.

 >> GRIGORY MILORADOV: Thank you. Thank you.

 >> ANDREA SAKS: Thank you, Masahito. Thank you very much, Masahito.

 >> MASAHITO KAWAMORI: Thank you. So the joint session continues and I will hand it over to Andrea Saks, the Chair.

 >> ANDREA SAKS: Okay. All right. Can Kaoru, could you kindly put up the agenda you kindly put up the agenda please you kindly put up the agenda please so everyone can have a look at it and scroll it, but not so fast. (Laughing).

Okay. Now, are there any changes or additions to put in Any Other Business as some people contacted me via email that they would like to add something to this meeting, so if they don't see themselves there, could they do so now?

Has anybody raised their hand, Lidia?

No, I guess not.

Is the agenda accepted?

 >> LIDIA BEST: No one raised hand.

 >> ANDREA SAKS: Okay. Good. Good. Okay. Right.

Now, the other thing we have to do and if you could put up Document 38 or 388, Kaoru, this is the report of the last JCA meeting.

Theoretically it was posted and one was supposed to look at it. Can you just scroll very slowly up so that people can see it in case there is an issue that we did not discuss or complete that needs to be addressed?

If not, do we accept this? There is a spelling mistake in wayfinder. There is no I. There is no I. That needs to be directed. The I should be removed and then it's correct.

If we are okay with that do we accept the last report of the JCA‑AHF Meeting on the 10th of October, 2019?

Oops, we've got some other typos, but ‑‑ audiovisual, is that going to be two words or one? I think it's two words. Unless we accept it as ‑‑

 >> SIMAO CAMPOS: Smelling is one. Over.

 >> ANDREA SAKS: Are we spelling it as one, Simao?

 >> SIMAO CAMPOS: Simao speaking, yes, spelling is all one all together.

 >> ANDREA SAKS: Okay. All right. Then we need to remove the red spelling indicator. Okay.

Any other comments?

 >> LIDIA BEST: Yes, from chat box.

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

 >> LIDIA BEST: Okay. It's from Erich who has two corrections one is 6.4.2 second paragraph.

 >> ANDREA SAKS: Can we go there first? Hold it. Let's go there first. It's 6.2? Is that correct, Lidia?

 >> LIDIA BEST: 4.2.

 >> ANDREA SAKS: 6.2 ‑‑ 4.2.

Where?

 >> LIDIA BEST: It's Erich's name.

 >> ANDREA SAKS: I'm sorry. Where are we going? I don't see. Oh, oh, his name is misspelled. It's not Erick but it is Erich. If we could change that to an H. Thank you, Erich, I apologize.

 >> LIDIA BEST: One more. United Nations world ‑‑

 >> ANDREA SAKS: Can you repeat that please?

 >> LIDIA BEST: United Nations World Autism Awareness Day.

 >> ANDREA SAKS: So we need to add World Autism. Is it Autism and not Autistic, is that correct?

 >> LIDIA BEST: Autism. Yeah.

 >> ANDREA SAKS: Thank you. With an S.

 >> LIDIA BEST: And his name is spelled wrong in Section 5.5 Paragraph 3.

 >> ANDREA SAKS: Okay. Section 5.5 Paragraph 3. Can we go there, Kaoru? Thank you, Erich!

5.3, Erich's name, I don't see it.

 >> LIDIA BEST: 5.5.

 >> ANDREA SAKS: 5.5. There we go. With an H instead of a K. Right. Thank you. Erich. Thank you for spotting that.

Is Ms. Bayaraa's name spelled correctly with a double A at the end? Is that right? If we look down below at his name, isn't it only BAYAR ‑‑ 1A? I'm not sure. Can we check?

 >> LIDIA BEST: Nobody says anything in the chat box.

 >> ANDREA SAKS: Okay. That's fine. All right. Kaoru, if we can doublecheck that.

On the basis of that, are there any other comments or corrections to be made to the report of the JCA Meeting on the 10th of October last year?

Okay. Then the meeting report is approved, thank you, Lidia, and you're perfect the way you're interjecting, the way you're doing it.

Okay. Now, speaking of Lidia, it is proposed by several of us in the JCA that Lidia, who is doing right now the coordination of being the remote moderator and has been assisting with a lot of work, should actually be officially recognized as a co‑‑vice Chair and Lidia represents the UK National Association of deaf People, NADP, and I would like to propose that we make a Vice Chair because she is actually doing the work.

We will ask and we will send a message to Jerry Ellis who has not been able for various reasons to attend, if he wishes to continue. But for the meantime, I think it's important to get an active Vice‑chairman who is assisting and making sure that we document everything that we need to in the JCA, so I'm proposing for Lidia to be made a Vice Chair. Do I have any seconds, please? You can yell.

Who would second this?

 >> CHRISTOPHER JONES: Christopher here. I will second it.

 >> ANDREA SAKS: Thank you. Christopher Jones, the other Vice Chair. I think that's sufficient. (Laughing).

By the way, silence is a "yes."

 >> LIDIA BEST: Andrea. Two things, she is back and in chat box.

 >> ANDREA SAKS: Right. Thank you. Judy. Okay. We've got Judy there and Christopher, so we've got two people seconding it.

 >> LIDIA BEST: And also Olaf. Thank you.

 >> ANDREA SAKS: (Laughing). You're popular. Anyway, you work very hard. I shouldn't wonder you would be popular.

The question now is ‑‑ silence is a "yes" and making a comment that you object is the only way that there is a vote of a no. I'll give you about 10 seconds. Is this acceptable to everybody that Lidia Best is made a Vice Chair of the JCA‑AHF?

 >> LIDIA BEST: Thank you, everybody, and thank you for trusting me. It's definitely a great, great pleasure to be part of the group, but also obviously there is a responsibility.

Now, as part of talking about responsibility, I have again, Erich, who is asking who has to vote on this? I'm not formerly a member of JCA‑AHF, so perhaps this is something which Andrea can clarify.

And then also from Judy's accessibility webinar on 28 of May next week.

 >> ANDREA SAKS: Hold up.

 >> LIDIA BEST: Judy sent the link in chat box.

 >> ANDREA SAKS: Okay. One second. Can we deal with Judy's thing in just a minute, and the first question is, Erich, you are on the mailing list, so as far as we are concerned if you get the JCA‑AHF, Mailing List, you're a member and you have registered with us. If you're not sure, please go to the ITU web page of JCA‑AHF and register yourself for any meeting that we have. You're on the mailing list, but we'll doublecheck to be sure, so you're a part of this group. If you participate, you're a part of it. You don't have to be a member of the ITU. This is an open group. It is a ‑‑ JCA has the ability to work with outside groups who are not necessarily members of the ITU or the UN.

It does not have the right to pass any standards or recommendations or write any guidelines, but it can assist and give recommendations of a soft sense to recommend that this would be good to be done, and certainly can send liaisons to other groups to say that the JCA‑AHF came to the conclusion that if you did blah, blah, blah, this would be beneficial to persons with disabilities, et cetera.

So it's a valuable group for all of us, especially those with like some of us who have disabilities, to be able to communicate directly with the ITU‑T, the ITU‑R, and the ITU‑D Study Groups without actually having to attend or pay the membership fee due to financial constraints that often are the situation with persons with disabilities who have ‑‑ even if they have organizations, we all know that the money situation is never extremely fluent? Does that help you, Erich, does that help you understand the situation and that you are part of the group?

 >> LIDIA BEST: Andrea, he has not expanded more. I think he's listening. He wrote okay, thanks, Andrea, I have no objections.

 >> ANDREA SAKS: We have no objections. Now, Judy, you don't have your microphone on.

Can you write ‑‑ you've given the information to ‑‑ can you read that aloud for Judy, please? Judy's ‑‑ Judy has ‑‑

>> JUDY: Hello. This is Judy.

 >> ANDREA SAKS: You're there. Go ahead and speak.

>> JUDY. This is Judy from Kenya, and the message has been sent by Judith.

 >> ANDREA SAKS: Okay. Can you read that out then for us, Lidia?

 >> LIDIA BEST: Okay. I only see two something so I didn't ‑‑ because I've got a small ‑‑ I need to ‑‑ okay. I'm sorry.

I'm sorry again. Yes. From Judy, so it was accessibility SIG is having our global accessibility awareness day webinar on 28 of May because this week, so we hope all will join us then.

On Thursday 28 of 2020 from 12:00 to half past 1:00 universal time in celebration of Global Accessibility Awareness Day, the Internet Society Accessibility Special Interest Group, will host a webinar When Rhetoric Meets Persons with Disabilities and COVID‑19. This webinar brings together digital accessibility to experts and people with disabilities to discuss with the disability outlet and COVID‑19. The webinar aims to share and offer a variety of ideas.

I'm sorry because it's jumping. Various ideas from different disabilities and different parts of the world.

Agenda in details are available ‑‑ so I've got it also in my email so I will send it later. Thank you.

 >> ANDREA SAKS: Thank you very much.

What I would like to suggest, Judith, is that you send the announcement with the links to the JCA‑AHF Mailing List, which you have, and I think if there is no objection, and wait for for a second from the group. That would be an acceptable way because by the time I do a Meeting Report, the meeting will be finished, and so if you ‑‑ if it's okay with everyone, Judith has our permission to send the information on the JCA‑AHF Mailing List. Is that agreeable to everybody?

 >> LIDIA BEST: Judith will send it.

 >> ANDREA SAKS: I'm sorry?

 >> LIDIA BEST: Judith will send the information.

 >> ANDREA SAKS: Thank you very much.

 >> LIDIA BEST: And I'm sorry. I'm sorry. Nobody is objecting.

 >> ANDREA SAKS: Great. All right. That's perfect. Thank you.

Okay. So we're going to the next business, Madam Vice Chair.

 >> CHRISTOPHER JONES: This is Christopher here, Andrea, can we have an interpreter break, please.

 >> ANDREA SAKS: Thank you! Thank you, Christopher! I completely forgot. Forgive me! We'll take a break of 10 minutes and come back at 3:00.

Oh, that's 3:00 English time. It's 4:00 Geneva time, and we're going to ‑‑ okay.

(10‑minute break).

 >> ANDREA SAKS: Can people hear me?

 >> LIDIA BEST: Yes, it's Lidia.

 >> ANDREA SAKS: Okay. Great. It's 5 seconds ‑‑ thank you all for coming back promptly.

Okay. Let's go. We've got a couple of hours and we've got a lot to cover through.

The next Section is 5.51, which is discussion around sign language interpretation (SLI) at the COVID‑19 crisis.

We have to discuss Remote SLI, AIIC and ITU agreement, international sign, what sign language to be used at ITU meetings, and the experience of SLI in e‑meetings.

What I have done is that if we all start talking about them and we all know bits and pieces of the information, we will never get anywhere and so what I did was I invited Oliver of Overseas Interpreting who is a experienced UN interpreter who some of you might recognize who has interpreted for us and who is a expert in the situation. And Maya DE wit and also listening in the changes and how to best work through the situation that we find ourselves in. Oliver, are you there?

 >> OLIVER POULIOT: I am here, Andrea.

 >> ANDREA SAKS: Great. I would like to turn the floor over to you, please. It's an honor to be invited to this meeting and I have been to a few of these meetings.

 >> OLIVER POULIOT: Thank you very much, I have been to a few of these meetings before but not in the same capacity, so I have a very paired down presentation and I wonder if I can just share my screen.

 >> ANDREA SAKS: I think we can do that. I think ‑‑ can that be done ‑‑ I'm sure it can be done, Kaoru, can you shift it over? How do we do this? We do this?

 >> OLIVER POULIOT: Okay.

 >> OLIVER POULIOT: Can everyone see my screen?

 >> INTERPRETER: Hold on one second. Christopher has lost sight of the interpreters. Okay. We're now good to switch interpreters.

 >> OLIVER POULIOT: Okay.

Okay. I just want to confirm that everyone can see my slides?

 >> OLIVER POULIOT: Thanks, Christopher.

 >> CHRISTOPHER JONES: I'm lost at the moment. Hold on a second.

 >> OLIVER POULIOT: Sure.

 >> CHRISTOPHER JONES: Hello. I can now see the interpreter. Carry on.

 >> OLIVER POULIOT: Okay. Wonderful. I will try to be as clear and concise as possible, but as you can all imagine, this is not an ununcomplicated topic with a substantial amount of history at the ITU.

So a little bit about who I am and my name again is Oliver Pouliot. I'm a sign language interpreter. I've been doing this for about 20 years.

I work both as an American Sign Language Interpreter and an International Sign Interpreter, and I am an AIIC member and AIIC is the Interinternational professional body for conference interpreters, and AIIC are the ones who are at the negotiating table with international institutions like the ITU to set the standards for our work, so professional standards for spoken and sign language interpreters.

I'm here with my AIIC sign language network hat on. I'm a member of that network, and I'm also a member of the Taskforce on Distance Interpreting. I represent the Sign Language Network on that, and as you can imagine we're very much in demand these days and there is quite a bit of work on our plate, and so a lot of what I'll be discussing today comes from those ‑‑ from that taskforce and the discussions that are happening there.

So moving right along.

So I want to make it very clear in terms of what we're talking about, right. So there are two different things. One is there are general guidelines for remote sign language interpreting. Okay.

So this could be in many different contexts, but most of those contexts would be professional ones, so or business‑related meetings, and so these are guidelines to be given to the general public just like many of the standards that the ITU produces.

And this is very different than any type of guideline or standard that might apply to the ITU or other international institutions. Okay. So it's very important to remember that when we're talking about guidelines and standards, we need to be clear as to what we're talking about because many people, I think, would apply it to a meeting like this, whereas, in fact, a meeting like this is covered under legal agreements and the ITU has obliged to provide interpreting by following a specific protocol. Okay.

So you can see on the slide that it says the rules are the same and what I mean there is that the rules for sign language interpreters are the same as the rules for spoken‑language interpreters when it concerns hiring and recruiting interpreters who work for ITU and ITU meetings, whether they be in house or remote.

And the agreement, which stipulates all of the working conditions, and it's a rather lengthy document that gets renegotiated about every five years, is called the UN‑AIIC Agreement, and the ITU is a signatory of that agreements so it's very important when looking at how interpreters work at the ITU, that people are familiar with the agreements.

What makes things a bit easier is that there is an interpreting department at the ITU, and they are extremely familiar with this agreement because it's basically, you know, their Bible and that's how they follow it.

Now, when we're talking about remote interpreting that happens at the ITU and we're in a situation that is unprecedented like the one that we're in now, we do already have some guidelines that have been agreed between the professional organizations and the UN bodies because as you can imagine, there is nothing in the agreement that states, you know, what happens if interpreters are, you know, on lockdown.

And I can go into a little bit more of that, but I'm thinking that it's probably better to use my time to move on with my presentation and we can take any questions, specific questions about that ‑‑ about the agreement and the adjustments to the agreement as it applies to the ITU and other international institutions at the end.

Now, one of the questions on the agenda is one around international sign and whether or not ITU should be utilizing international sign.

Now, thus far at the ITU, there have been interpreters used, national interpreters, so national sign language interpreters for American Sign language and British Sign Language as specifically requested by the experts in the meeting, and that in itself is a best practice. So I would say that the ITU is doing a fantastic job in making sure that their participants are able to access the meeting and that the interpreters, for the most part, are hired accordingly.

International sign is used in many other contexts, many other similar contexts that may or may not be as technical. It doesn't ‑‑ just because other institutions don't have the word "technical" in their name, doesn't mean they're not just as technical.

So one of the myths that people have about international sign is that it cannot really handle the amount of technical information that may be present in an expert meeting, and that is ‑‑ I would say that is not correct.

It really depends on how familiar the signers in the meeting are and how comfortable they are with international sign, and also the familiarity of the interpreters with the subject matter.

So, while international sign, I would say remains an option, it depends on who is in the meeting. I would not at this point, knowing what I do and having been to several of the meetings at the ITU, I would not at all suggest that international sign would be an appropriate replacement for BSL and ASL interpretation because precedent was set and it is a good precedent. One of the reasons international sign is used is when you have deaf participants from several countries, okay, so not only two countries but maybe four or five countries, in which and it's prohibitory to hire 10 different ‑‑ 10 different interpreters to work at the same meeting in five different sign languages. Okay.

I'm almost finished here, but one thing I wanted to say about platforms, and platforms ‑‑ by platforms I mean things like Zoom and there are ‑‑ there are interpreter‑specific platforms out there which, you know, they cost money and bigger institutions will buy them to, you know, make sure that they can provide remote interpreting.

None of the platforms that are out there on the market are ‑‑ kind of tick all the boxes, so none of them are a gold standard, right. And none of them are really ‑‑ none of them really think about sign language interpreting and maybe that will happen in the future, but right now what we're doing is we're taking existing platforms like Zoom and we're making them fit to the best of our ability sign language accessibility. Right, sign language interpreting provision.

So when we make ‑‑ when we say oh, we'll just have this meeting remotely, and we'll have sign language interpreters, it is one of the main points to be made about, you know, COVID and the impact of COVID and shifting everything to remote and how that might impact things in the future, is that for participants and interpreters, it is harder, right.

It's harder for us to work in this medium for so many reasons, right. So I think if we keep that in mind, and we keep it in mind that if we can, we should try to encourage people to be together physically.

We should try to encourage, you know, human contact, which is a very strange thing to try to encourage people to say, but I think that in this age of social distancing, it's often forgotten.

So, some things that are on the slide is ‑‑ it's more to do with how we work as interpreters, and so we work in teams, and that support is very, very important and it's very difficult to work in a team when you're not physically together.

I won't go into the technical details of why that is, but you can imagine the type of support we're used to giving in a language like ‑‑ in languages like sign language, and not being able to do that, and relying on text‑based things or relying on your co‑interpreter who is on your telephone, which is a very small screen.

We also, you know, there is also the technical side of it. Right. So what happens if it Christopher's interpreters have a power cut right now? Who is liable for that? Right? So there are a lot of questions that surround the technical nature of how these platforms work, how the interpreters are supported, and how the participants are supported as well.

We want to ‑‑ my last slide here, which is just a reiteration of what I've already said. You know, sign language is a face‑to‑face language and we are face‑to‑face people, right. And to me we are not face‑to face right now. This is not a face‑to‑face meeting, even though I can see some faces in 2D, but I wouldn't consider seeing someone on the screen a real face‑to‑face way. It's 2D versus 3D, and so I think it's important that we remember that.

Here is my last slide with some of my contacts and details and the details of the Sign Language Network, and I'll be here for the rest of the meeting if there are any questions. Thank you.

 >> ANDREA SAKS: Thank you, Oliver.

I like your slides. There are some blind participants who wanted to look at them, but I didn't ‑‑ we did not ‑‑ did you make this available, this slide presentation to Kaoru or did you just bring it along?

 >> OLIVER POULIOT: I will send it to you, Kaoru, and Simao, this second.

 >> ANDREA SAKS: Fantastic because then we will post it on the JCA page and then people can access it and go to the JCA page for the documents as soon as the meeting is over.

I have some questions, but before I ask mine, there are questions that are coming up in the chat box, so I'm going to turn it over to Lidia, who will ask the questions on behalf of people in the chat box and identify who is asking the question one at a time, and if you could answer those questions, that would be great. Lidia, are you ready?

 >> LIDIA BEST: Yes. I am. I don't know first what you want. Do you want me to read questions first from the chat? Because I know Christian also wants to ask a question.

 >> ANDREA SAKS: Tell Christian he's on the list to speak afterwards if he would wait, please, with his question, then we can take that in a bit.

What I want to do is go through the ones that are remote. Judy is in Africa, so I think Judy has one.

 >> LIDIA BEST: Okay. So I've got a question from Judy Okite. Is sign language ‑‑

 >> CHRISTOPHER JONES: Pause one moment, please, chair we're switching interpreters.

 >> ANDREA SAKS: Thank you very much for telling me. Any time you just tell me and we'll stop for you.

This is one of the things, Oliver, that we have to learn to adjust to. We don't judge this very well and it's wonderful that the interpreters just tell us, so that's the best way that I can see forward on this one.

Go ahead, Lidia.

 >> LIDIA BEST: I'm sorry, has there been an answer to Judy's question?

 >> OLIVER POULIOT: Okay. I can answer. I was just waiting.

 >> LIDIA BEST: I will repeat. Is sign language considered an option to captioning and both must be used in remote meeting?

 >> CHRISTOPHER JONES: This is Christopher here. I'm sorry. I've got a problem with this, with the spotlighting.

I want to spotwill the the interpreter. It's gone ‑‑ it's gone pixelated and it's not clear.

 >> ANDREA SAKS: Gent, are you online? Gent is our technical person. Can you hear me?

 >> GENT: Hi, Andrea. I am here and I can hear you.

 >> ANDREA SAKS: I don't know the answer to that.

Gent, Christopher says his sign language reproduction of the picture of his sign language interpreting is pixelating, what should he or she do?

 >> GENT: So that's the problem, you don't see clear the video?

 >> INTERPRETER: We're going to try to reset the one interpreter video feed and we'll go back to the previous interpreter for now.

 >> GENT: Try that, please.

 >> CHRISTOPHER JONES: Just informing of that.

 >> ANDREA SAKS: Thank you.

 >> INTERPRETER: One moment. He'll need a couple of seconds just to register as the new interpreter.

 >> LIDIA BEST: Also, Christian is saying same thing. He had more freezing as well.

 >> ANDREA SAKS: It might be Christopher's machine.

 >> INTERPRETER: One moment.

 >> CHRISTOPHER JONES: Right. I'm back with the other interpreter while the other interpreter sorts out the problem at her end. Thank you.

 >> ANDREA SAKS: Thank you. All right. Please continue. I think, Lidia, you don't have to repeat the question again. Go ahead, Oliver. Please answer.

 >> OLIVER POULIOT: Okay. So in response to the question from Judy, sign language is not an option to replace captioning.

People have different preferences in terms of how they want to access a meeting, and sign language and captioning are very different options, and so one should never be seen to replace the other.

More often than not, meeting organizers do think that providing captioning is enough, but it depends on the audience that you have and the audience that you want to attract.

Many times, having captioning without sign language interpreting is not a good option and will ‑‑ would definitely not be considered the ‑‑ would not be considered providing accessibility.

 >> ANDREA SAKS: May I come in here and add another point for you, Oliver? I've always considered captioning and any, and information from the meeting itself. Sign language provides both in and out communication, one from the person in the audience who wants to speak, ask a question, be involved, and also to receive information on the native tongue of his own choosing, which could be BSL, ASL, or any of the other languages.

I wonder if you could explain a little bit more about international sign. I think that it is complicated for people who don't understand that it isn't a language. How do you create international sign? Go ahead, Oliver.

 >> OLIVER POULIOT: Sure. I would be very happy to expand a little bit on international sign. Now, the question of whether or not international sign is a language or not is not one that is decisive, right.

So the answer is not really one that the community, nor researchers, have agreed on. We do not use the interpret International Sign Language because it doesn't fit in the same category as National Sign Languages, right, so the more recognized sign languages. That in itself doesn't mean that it's a made‑up language like Esparanto, okay.

It's not a made up language. There wasn't someone who just decided the vocabulary and grammatical rules. It does exist naturally as a pigeon language when deaf people come together from different countries and they don't know each other's sign languages. Okay.

So there is something that is unique about the modality of sign language that allows common understanding, all be it, it might take a little bit of effort at first but it takes much less effort than if you were to do this across spoken languages.

So, in the practical sense, there is a group of ‑‑ there are groups of people around the world who know sign language or more likely that they know sign languages, and so they have their own ‑‑ they have their sign language that they grew up with or that they learned, and then they became familiar with one or two or three other sign languages.

That allows the flexibility for them to see sign language outside of just their national context.

The more people that they meet from other countries, the more strategies they try to use to communicate with those people and that is going to be a combination of using signs that they already know, gesture, and co‑speech gesture, and co‑speech gesture is something that everyone uses whether or not you're a sign language user or spoken language user, because as we communicate, we use our bodies whether we want to or not.

Okay, so you have people who point to things, and so all of these different things, if you kind of put them into the same basket and use it for a purpose of communicating on an international level across different national borders, between people from different countries, that is what is considered international sign.

So it's not an easy phenomenon to explain, but it is a very interesting one and it is something that just like all languages is constantly evolving.

 >> INTERPRETER: Please pause while we change interpreter for Christopher.

Thank you.

 >> LIDIA BEST: Andrea, can you read out what Erich has just said?

Andrea, can you hear me?

 >> SIMAO CAMPOS: Just go ahead, Lidia.

 >> LIDIA BEST: The question is from Erich if international sign is a bit like Esparanto and I see what our colleagues are saying that international sign is not a constructed language like Esperanto, but if you want to say yes or no. Thank you.

 >> OLIVER POULIOT: Yes. Christian Vogler in his response is correct. That is what I said. International sign is a natural language, meaning it was not invented by one person. It is something that spontaneously evolved from people getting together with the need to communicate just like any other language.

 >> ANDREA SAKS: Are there any other questions that anyone would care to ask Oliver, while we have Oliver here?

 >> LIDIA BEST: I sent you a message. The first one is Christian and second is David, and third is Christopher.

 >> OLIVER POULIOT: And please don't forget that Simao had had a question as well above.

 >> ANDREA SAKS: Shall we take Simao's question?

 >> LIDIA BEST: Oh, yes, but he's not showing hand now.

 >> ANDREA SAKS: Well, no, Simao, did you want to ask your question?

 >> SIMAO CAMPOS: Yes. You had asked me to write in the chat and I did, and it seems that got lost, so that's the problem with the chat. No problem. Just a question for Oliver, whether he has used ‑‑ he mentioned a number of platforms that none are very well suited for sign language interpretation for the remote participation platforms, and my question was whether he's familiar with Kudo? Thank you.

 >> OLIVER POULIOT: Thanks for your question, Simao.

I am familiar with Kudo, although I have not worked or interpreted a meeting using Kudo before.

What I know from colleagues and from doing a little bit of analysis of the various platforms is that Kudo is not yet ‑‑ it's not yet ‑‑ it doesn't have any feature for sign language interpreting as far as I know.

There is another platform called Interpify which does have a feature to include sign language interpreting, but I wouldn't say that they are sign language friendly, so unfortunately, among the platforms out there that are specific to ‑‑ to interpreting, none of them are really catering to offering sign language interpretation yet.

(background sound).

 >> SIMAO CAMPOS: I ask because I was by chance in interpreter conference that Kudo had had and I joined and there, there was a ASL interpreter working, and I could select seeing the interpreter through the channel selection whether I had the floor or English and so on and so there was a channel for ASL and so there is some feature there, and I was just wondering if you had the opportunity, but it seems not, so thank you.

 >> OLIVER POULIOT: Sure. There is a lot more testing that needs to be done.

What's happening I will say this that I think more in the personal capacity is the platform, the interpreting platforms right now are really in are salesman mode and so they're ‑‑ they're trying to parade different features that they have, including the incorporation of sign language without consulting sign language interpreters and without, you know, adhering to any sort of standard whether it be technical or professional, so personally, I haven't been impressed with any of the offerings that I've seen so far.

 >> ANDREA SAKS: Can everyone turn off their microphones if they are not Christopher, Lidia, or the people asking questions, please.

(background noise).

 >> ANDREA SAKS: We're getting background noise.

Someone has their mic on. Thank you.

 >> SIMAO CAMPOS: Andrea, David Fourney and Christian have their hand raised.

 >> ANDREA SAKS: Who is first?

 >> SIMAO CAMPOS: It's Christian and then David, it's raised not in the chat, and so they have to say the questions.

 >> ANDREA SAKS: That's correct. That's correct, but Lidia is in charge of that. Go ahead, Lidia. Read the question.

 >> SIMAO CAMPOS: They have to speak the question, it's not written.

 >> LIDIA BEST: In the chat there is only not a question but more like a conversation from Erich saying that he understands and finds hard to follow phrases in telephone conversation. Most Autistic people avoid telephone calls and this meeting is like being on a phone call for him.

And Christian, of course, confirmed what people all say about phone calls, totally ‑‑ he totally gets it.

So now in the hand‑raising, Christian, David, and Christopher, and so basically now over to you, Andrea.

 >> ANDREA SAKS: Okay. Thank you, but Christian, did you have a question? Let's get your question and then there is David. Am I correct? So Christian, can you go first, please? Go ahead and speak.

 >> CHRISTIAN VOGLER: Can you hear me now?

 >> CHRISTIAN VOGLER: Can you hear me now? So I'm going to let the interpreter voice for me. I know we've worked together before so we know how this goes by now.

So my first comment is about international sign language for technical content ‑‑ for technical content. So I am not a confident user of international sign language, but I do use ASL, so I just wanted to add that it also depends on the field that we're working in. Of so for example, my background is in technology and telecommunications and computer science, so that is the field that I work in and international sign language ‑‑

Is not Lingua Fransca, so it's not a common language that people come together for for international conferences.

So, even though I use American sign language, I would still struggle ‑‑ they would still struggle to follow me. So it becomes worse for anything that has deeper content that's more technical. So typically, I'll have to meet with the interpreter beforehand, and I will have to make sure that we explain very clearly for the ASL interpreter what will be used specifically for ASL, and so I know that we have about 10 to 15 interpreters all over the world who know and have worked with me before and that are familiar with me and that work well with me and I feel confident with them that what I say will be followed very specific ways.

So for international sign language or sign, I don't feel that way. It's impossible.

So I wanted to emphasize just as Oliver said, it does take practice to provide a national sign language interpreter, and I completely agree that that is what the practice should be.

Second comment. I agree that all of the platforms that are currently available do not work well for sign language. And they do not work well for sign language interpreters.

Now, tomorrow I have a meeting on Zoom with Zoom ‑‑ with Zoom. On Zoom with the company Zoom.

I'll be working with two agencies, so two interpreters, so it will be the three of us working together to have a conversation with Zoom.

So I'll have a conversation about how they can improve their platform for us, you know, so I'm preparing for that now, and if I have any ‑‑ if you have any issues that you want me to bring up to Zoom, this would be the time. Email me as soon as possible so that I can get that into our meeting tomorrow. Okay.

So I will type my email in the chat box, so you'll have a way to reach out to me, and so please look for it there. Thank you so much.

 >> ANDREA SAKS: Thank you, Christopher! This is music to my ears for sure because instinctively, I know that, that it didn't work because I've been struggling with how to get this organized.

And actually, I think we've got the hang of it for the third meeting around that we've done so far, it's better than it was on the first day that we were using interpretation with just Question 26 Meeting, and so thank you so much for that.

And I don't know what questions to ask, but I'll think about it. Your meeting, can you clarify what your meeting day is and how much time have we got exactly, please?

How much time have we got to respond to you, Christian?

 >> LIDIA BEST: He's disappeared at the moment. He wrote ‑‑ okay, he wrote 1:00 p.m. US time tomorrow.

 >> ANDREA SAKS: Okay. So we got to do something tonight. Okay. Thank you. At least we know that.

 >> LIDIA BEST: There are more questions.

 >> ANDREA SAKS: Yes, okay, but David is next, I think. Is that correct? David, go ahead.

 >> DAVID FOURNEY: This is David. I'm just watching Jessica, so yep, I know you can hear me. So I just want to say, so yeah, as a hard of hearing person normally I voice for myself, yes I'm a signer, and yes I'm ASL fluent, and I do understand ASL and follow ASL, but as someone who is also a expert in captioning, a technical expert in captioning, actually wrote the International Standard on Captioning, I know and understand the barriers that captioning provides as well, and so one of the comments I want to make is in response to Judy, and that is that the captions themselves, it's just a wall of text and it's just words. There is no emotion, there is no flow. It takes an enormous amount of effort to follow captions.

So, yes, I have the captions turned on because I do want to have a sense of what was said in English as I'm following Jessica as she interprets in ASL, but I'm actually watching Jessica as she interprets in ASL and then listening to the call in English on top.

So I'm using multiple channels of communication, but no one ‑‑ captioning in and of itself is not a solution.

Now, having said that, sign language interpretation and understanding sign language, regardless of the national sign language, requires a level of skill, requires a level of fluently and in this environment, requires a fairly strong fluency with that national language.

For me, personally, international sign, I can't follow it. I don't understand it. It's really, really hard for me to parse. So I would not be comfortable with it. With American Sign Language, with good strong American Sign Language interpreter, I'm fine and there is no problem at all and I can follow the American Sign Language interpreter and be comfortable with what's dpg on so I just want to be clear that multiple channels is how we support people who are Deaf or hard of hearing in this space. Hard of hearing people tend not to be signers and they have to use captioning to support what they're hearing. Deaf people may be able to follow the captions and they may not, but they get far better meaning and far more information by following a signer, by seeing an interpreter, around so we really have to have both to make the best ‑‑ to make the best support. That's my first comment.

My second comment is going back to Oliver's presentation. In the middle of Oliver's presentation, I actually lost my Internet connection and I completely lost everything and did not see his slides anymore and couldn't see the interpreter, and couldn't see Christopher lying back on his couch, couldn't see a thing.

Thankfully, I'm pulling audio through a phone call and I could hear what Oliver was saying the whole time, but nonetheless, the loss of the Internet connection in the middle of this thing, you know, that's one of those risks that we are dealing with. You know, we had Mo at one point have her Internet freeze, and so again, that has real barriers and that has real risk as well.

There are technical complications that we somehow have to deal with and we somehow have to meet when it comes to ensuring support, particularly for visual language users that somehow we don't lose that communication stream. The risk of technology is real. Technology fails. Hard of hearing people know this. Our hearing aids die all the time. Technology fails, and so we have to have some ways and backups and methods of thinking about what do we do when technology fails and what is our backup, what is our alternative if something goes wrong. That's my contribution. Thank you very much. Thank you Oliver, for your talk today.

 >> INTERPRETER: Can we pause for interpreter changeover please.

 >> ANDREA SAKS: Okay. Hang on, everyone.

Ready?

 >> INTERPRETER: Thank you.

 >> ANDREA SAKS: Wait. We're waiting for Jessica. Jessica, are you ready?

 >> INTERPRETER: I'm ready.

 >> ANDREA SAKS: Okay. Go. Okay. Thank you for that, David. I want to stress to you, David, why don't you put some of those comments over to Christian for his meeting tomorrow. I think that would be useful for him.

The next person who had a question ‑‑ we've done David and we've done Christian and it's PradeeP, I can't say his name ‑‑

 >> INTERPRETER: Christopher had his hand up, I think.

 >> ANDREA SAKS: I know. But Christopher, do you mind going last because everybody else hasn't had a chance to talk and you have, so I'm going to put you at the end because you're a gentlemen.

Okay. Go ahead. I haven't forgotten you. Okay. Pradeep, can you have your ‑‑ your question is do automatic sign language interpreting platforms give equal prominence to different sign modalities, ie., hand gesture, lip reading, facial gestures, et cetera, or is there a relative weight to age assignment? Now, I don't even understand the question.

 >> LIDIA BEST: Andrea, there is a response already from Christian on that. He's got it and he's saying that ‑‑

 >> ANDREA SAKS: Read it.

 >> LIDIA BEST: No, actually there is nothing what exists right now to replace sign language interpreters really.

 >> ANDREA SAKS: There is nothing that exists right now ‑‑ can you ‑‑ all right, you have to read exactly what Christian wrote which is all deaf professionals I work with use ASL interpreters, and captioning in parallel. The reason is simple. Captions serve as a way to look away and then catch up, and also serve as a check to ensure that the interpreter voiced the English accurately.

Now, let's see what else is said. And he said that's fine. Pradeep said it's fine. Then Lidia said to everybody that this is the same with those that don't know sign language. We lip read and follow captioning.

And so captioning is a tool, and I'm just interpreting what people have been saying because I also have a problem of having dyslexia and my hearing is going due to age, and so I rely on captioning a lot and I totally agree with that.

What my concern is, and what I want for Christian to just take into account, and then I'll let Christopher come in, is that the screens are not set up properly on the remote tools to allow us, and this one that we've got and adjusted to, to have good sign language interpretation. And in technical work, yes, we have to have the language of the country of the participant and not necessarily international sign.

Oliver, you're still there, and it was your presentation, do you want to make a comment before I take Christopher's question?

 >> OLIVER POULIOT: I will wait until Christopher's question and then I will make, I think, just a last batch of comments based on what was said.

 >> ANDREA SAKS: All right. Fine. Okay. Christopher, please go ahead.

 >> CHRISTOPHER JONES: Hello. It's Christopher here. I have three things to say.

First of all, I completely agree with Christian and with David that, yes, I also would not be able to follow such a meeting as this in international sign.

What's more important for me is that I have the right sign language interpreter, that the sign language interpreter and I both understand one another, especially when it comes to them putting my contributions into voice.

Secondly, my second point is that I want to back up what David was saying about watching a sign language interpretation and having remote captioning on screen at the same time.

Matjaz from Slovenia, in his research that he did, he found that deaf people will often watch television broadcasts that have captioning plus sign language interpretation together and find that very accessible, their comprehension level has increased dramatically. And indeed, I'm doing exactly the same for this meeting. The remote captioning and the sign language interpretation are both as equally as important to me.

Thirdly, back to Oliver, about that face‑to‑face meeting being the ideal and what most people forget is that I want sign language interpreters to also shadow me between meetings, between breaks, and that's also important for me for the networking opportunity that provides. Thank you.

 >> ANDREA SAKS: Okay. Oliver? Do you want to come in now?

Are there any other questions ‑‑ oh, wait a minute. There are more in the chat box. Lidia, would you read the chat box first before Oliver?

 >> LIDIA BEST: Yes, I will. So, for example, Christopher and ‑‑ Matjaz, I'm sorry, he's saying Christopher is right and he's confirming this with his research as well.

But also and related to this discussion, Judith has left a message that there is a problem with dial‑in number from Pakistan and ability to call and to enter the Zoom call and that would be probably for Gent.

And David as well is agreeing with Christopher, and so basically everybody agrees with Christopher. Finished.

 >> ANDREA SAKS: Okay. Thank you. Can Shabir put his number ‑‑ and I can't promise anything from Shabir but can you tell him to put his am in in the chat box, please, because that's lower and can probably get through and I don't know if the policy is going to allow us to do that, but at least we'll ask and see what happens and see if it's possible for him to come in, but also communicate that we'll send him the captioning.

Now, Christopher Jones, you've been waiting like a good patient soul. Go ahead and say what you wish to say. Thank you.

 >> LIDIA BEST: Christopher already spoke.

 >> CHRISTOPHER JONES: I don't understand. Are you talking about my presentation? Are you asking me to make a presentation now, Chair?

 >> ANDREA SAKS: Oh, God. No not yet. I'm sorry I'm having trouble with my mute button. I was going to ‑‑ no, not just yet. I was going to say ‑‑ I thought you had a comment on what was said. That's why I thought you raised your hand.

 >> CHRISTOPHER JONES: I contributed my three points where I talked about shadowing the sign language interpreter between breaks and at lunchtimes and traveling time and in the evening and having a shadowing interpreter to I'm fully able to participate and access the networking opportunities available when I'm with my colleague, and that's missing of all these virtual meetings, there is the offline access.

 >> ANDREA SAKS: Okay. Hold that thought. I would like to let Oliver respond to the comments made. Would you like to go ahead, Oliver.

 >> OLIVER POULIOT: Yes, of course, thank you, Andrea, and a big thanks to Christopher, Christian, David, and the others who who have made comments in the chat box because you all have enhanced my participation in a very positive way and so I'd like to thank you because I feel like this has been a collaborative effort, including the sign language interpreters who are also working.

So I just want to finish with a couple of things and one of them is to emphasize, again, what both Christopher and Christian said, and really this points to letting the experts be their own experts on what they need.

So by asking the question of which sign language or international sign we should use, we are opening the door to potentially ignoring preferences of some participants over another solution which may not as effective, so again like I said in my presentation, in the context of working with ITU as an interpreter and as a consultant for a lack of a better word, I would not recommend that international sign is used because there doesn't seem to be an appropriate place for it, and there doesn't seem to be an audience who would appreciate it.

With that being said, I would also go back to my own role as the sign language representative on the Taskforce for Distance Interpreting. We have created, very recently, of course, a checklist which can be used by interpreters, but could also be ‑‑ it's open so you could also ‑‑ you could also take a look at this and I think the participants of this meeting would be interested in at least one or two of the sections.

So, you know, there is a participant section, a interpreter section, a technical section, and I will ‑‑ I'll post a link in the chat to that checklist.

And this checklist is something that can guide you, but it's also something that guides the institutions and the interpreter or interpreting departments at the institutions.

What we've seen this afternoon and I gather from what you have seen in the past couple of days of the other meetings that you've had this week is that there have been some technical problems and there have been some frustrations around that.

Now, when interpreters are recruited according to the, you know, the obligational agreements where that they need to be recruited by ITU, there is a lot that happens behind the scenes to make sure that these types of issues don't happen during a meeting that's held by a UN body. Okay.

So I think that's very important to point out here because, again, the liability of an interpreter right now connecting from home is quite high, and it's not on the interpreter or the person themselves, but it's on whatever infrastructure that happens to be in their neighborhood, and we are all then depending on that. So as a first, as a first option, what should happen with sign language interpreters, and this is what is what happens with spoken language interpreters who work at the ITU right now, is that we should physically go to the ITU building, which is actually closed to all because of all the interpreting equipment and technology is in the ITU building because interpreters have been working at the ITU building in Geneva throughout the COVID crisis and there is no reason that sign language interpreters could not also be working in that same building because the working conditions and the legal agreements between the ITU and professional interpreter associations have pointed to the fact that this is a best practice. And I know for sure that there are four flights from Hethro to Geneva, every week or every day, I can't remember, and for example ‑‑ every day, thank you, Christopher.

And so, it's just a point to be made that there are things to improve and that we are, of course, here to work with you and that we are also very much on your side in terms of developing these guidelines and these standards for remote participation in general. I know that Christian has released a very, very useful website with some practical tips. There are also other institutions like DCAL in London who recently came up with another very, very useful site on this and there are a number of others as well, so I think when we put together standards and guidelines in terms of remote sign language interpreting, let's not forget to include all of the stakeholders, meaning users first and foremost, but also people who know things from the technical side and the interpreters themselves. And I would think that the interpreters themselves who also know a bit of the technical side that are involved in their professional organizations who are also building similar standards could also come together so that we're not all reinventing the wheel at the same time. Thank you.

 >> ANDREA SAKS: Thank you, Christian. I think we have to give our interpreters a break. We're not finished, I think, with this, but so if you would come back at 10 past the hour, we will continue. Thank you.

(break).

 >> LIDIA BEST: Christopher? Christopher? Your hand down. You. You!

Thank you!

 >> CHRISTOPHER JONES: Yes, sir.

 >> ANDREA SAKS: Okay. Is everybody back? I'm sorry. I took a little longer than I meant to. Apologies.

Oh! I live in a two‑story house and you can imagine that I have to run downstairs and then run back up.

Anyway, right. Now, I want to say thank you to Oliver. Christopher, you have a presentation regarding this as well, so if there are no further ‑‑ I want to say thank you very much first to Oliver ‑‑ I can never say your name, Oliver for giving us so much information. I still have some questions but I don't want to take time with that now because I want to give everyone a chance to speak. Because of COVID‑19 we're in rather unique times which is quite extraordinary, and there is ‑‑ I don't think the AIIC Agreement ever thought that we would be in this situation and we ‑‑ people have gone and hired their own sign language and not the ones in Geneva to be able to function without even having been asked to or encouraged by us one way or the other, and so those are things that are beyond my control and our control in general, and so that may ‑‑ if we have time, I would like to talk about that. But not at the moment. I want to go to Christopher to have him give his presentation, please.

 >> LIDIA BEST: Andrea? While Christopher is getting ready, can Maya say something? She really is trying to speak.

 >> ANDREA SAKS: That would be wonderful. While you're getting ready, Christopher, yes, Maya, I would absolutely love it if you would put in your two and three cents, please.

 >> MAYA DE WIT: Hello, everyone. This is Maya (Speakiing. I was introduced briefly beginning I'm the coordinator of the AIIC the same that was spoken of distance line language interpreting. I don't want to take too much time but I want to answer some of the questions that were also in the chat box and add something else, namely, one thing that has not been said yet, I think, is namely the whole new notion ‑‑ I think we're confronted with is basically screen fatigue.

We are so much on screen watching and participating in meetings and so this adds to the whole stress of participants, but also interpreters, so I think this is something that is really important to keep in mind, which means that in principle, meetings should actually be either shorter or the team of interpreters should be strengthened, and that means that there needs to be more interpreters working in a team than there would normally be if they would be in a live meeting, just because of the extra cognitive stress, the fact you're working from 2D, and all of these other elements. I think Christopher is raising his hand.

 >> ANDREA SAKS: Christopher, can you let Maya finish what she wants to say and then make your comment because you're going to have a clans to speak. Go ahead, Maya.

 >> MAYA DE WIT: Okay. So that's what I wanted to say. The other thing, the travel to Geneva, Oliver already answered, and of course that would be best practice if interpreters could travel to Geneva.

The other option would be more of a hybrid solution that would be that, for example, the interpreters are working from a specific studio or a hub which they call it, HUB, and that then has a dedicated technician, they don't have the liability, they don't have to worry about Internet going down, being clear on screen, having the right connection, so they could actually focus on the interpretation.

As you can see now also during this meeting, the interpreters are doing more than interpreting. They have to make sure that they take turns at the right moment, that they are visible, that their connection is right, and so these are elements that are really especially but add to the job that they are normally already doing.

Lastly, I wanted to say something about WFD Guidelines that were also mentioned, I think by Lidia. The WFD, the World Federation of the Deaf and World Association of Sign Language Interpreters, WASLI, published guidelines in March about accessibility to information during this pandemic in sign language. And the gietdlines state how to access this information, like best practice guidelines, and so for example the size of the interpreter on the screen, how the interpreter should be provided, et cetera. And so these are important things to keep in mind as well. And of course, when we think about the WFD, or what you see often is that international sign interpreting is provided in general, and so for example at the UN‑CRPD, when you watch the UN web TV, you will see international sign interpretation. Yeah. So this is common practice. The reason for this is because this was raised in the chat box, and the reason if this is because it needs to be accessible to an international audience that is viewing the streaming. In the setting at ITU, this is not internationally streamed, and this is a meeting that you're having with dedicated participants who are participating, who have their own mode of communication or preference for which language they use, and so in this case, definitely the participants should be asked what they want to use to access the meeting.

The same as the meeting would be interpreted, for example, into French if someone doesn't understand English.

Many times we get a request of can you provide sign language interpretation at an event, at a seminar. What happens then is the first question that we ask back is, what sign language do you want? What is the participant or where is the participant coming from? Because everyone thinks that once you put international sign in place, everyone in the whole world will understand it, which Oliver explained very clearly is not the case.

So it's crucial to always let, as Oliver said, the experts be the experts. They know which sign language or which language they prefer to use to access the meetings. So I hope that answers some of the questions and thank you for giving me a short time to speak. Thanks.

 >> ANDREA SAKS: Maya, thank you very, very much. I think you actually embellished and made a lot of other points clearer and you actually answered the question that I wasn't going to ask because I didn't want to take the time.

I would like to have a copy of that particular agreement that you mentioned between you and the UN‑CRPD. Is that correct? Is that what you said? I couldn't quite hear, but the copy that you came through, the guidelines. Because we could take it into Question 26 and actually incorporate it into accessible meetings or accessible remote participation, which we are, in fact, upgrading for the next meeting at the end of June.

So, if you and Oliver would work with me and Lidia, we would like to have access to that, and with permission of the two groups, it's the European Federation of the Deaf and you to get that cemented in so that we have ‑‑ because listen, we're flying by the seat of our pants, as you can tell. I just made this up as we went along. I learned from the two days previously that what I'm doing seems to work, and you can see two interpreters and two different languages for the two different ‑‑ we have two participants who are ASL and one participant who is BSL, and so this has ‑‑ and then we get the documents up and they shrink down.

This is not ideal, and plus we have a chat box, and plus we have ‑‑ you know, these tools are not ideal and the problem is that they need to be redesigned.

So, input on that from your division, from your group, would be very, very helpful. I promised Christopher ‑‑ any other comments before I give the floor to Christopher for his presentation?

 >> CHRISTOPHER JONES: This is Christopher. A really small comment to Maya. What she has just said was really useful. She was talking about the increasing the number of sign language interpreters.

I think that also deaf people need a longer break because we're watching in 2D for such a long time hour after hour, so in terms of the June meeting, if it was say six hours, we need to build in longer breaks for the deaf participants.

 >> ANDREA SAKS: Okay. Christopher, so Simao is on board and we're taking this in, and this is the first time we've done this ‑‑ I mean, the JCA has done it yesterday and Monday was the first time that we had JCA, and I ‑‑ I would like as I said, to work with Maya and Oliver and some of the other people who are involved in providing sign language and how best to do it because I'm afraid to tell you all this, but I've heard on good authority that we won't be having a live meeting in ITU until well passed October so we're going to be remote for a really long time. I don't know if this is really going to happen like that, but that's what I was told.

So ‑‑

 >> LIDIA BEST: Andrea?

 >> ANDREA SAKS: Yes.

 >> LIDIA BEST: Can I read out, apparently I'm given permission to read out from the chat box, so can I?

 >> ANDREA SAKS: Yes, you can. Thank you, Lidia, please do.

 >> LIDIA BEST: Thank you. So from David, there is also a issue of heard of hearing fatigue, and I agree too. Especially when captioning is not available, that's even worse.

And then Christian is also saying he knows quite a lot of people who use captions and still get (?) by the meetings, and where he talks about it as well and it's true that I have also experienced this, and that in general, it is very tiring, and also David just now brought about ISO has all meetings on hold until October, live meetings on hold until October, so he expects we will not have any live meetings until 2021.

And I also in the chat mention that in this meeting as well, instead of all day which normally we have, we are only having half day, and still I'm feeling tired and I'm sure everybody is the same.

 >> ANDREA SAKS: Thank you, Lidia. That's very important that you read that out, and do keep jumping in. Do keep jumping in because I wanted to say yesterday that one of the things that was not done is nobody was in charge of the chat box and you're doing a terrific job.

Now,.

 >> LIDIA BEST: Also, Christian, I'm sorry, said something else. It's very important, I missed ‑‑ oh, it's jumping, sorry, really hard of making things work and I think it is right that when we understand exactly what are the rules, what are we supposed to do, everybody clicks in and we have worked for three days over now, and Christopher Jones, can you please put your hand down unless you're asking a question.

 >> ANDREA SAKS: Don't make side comments. In other words.

(Laughing).

 >> LIDIA BEST: All from me. Andrea. I'm sorry.

 >> ANDREA SAKS: That's all right. Okay. Put down your hands until spoken to, says Andrea. (Laughing). Okay. Thank you, Lidia, it was driving me nuts but I didn't have the heart to say anything. Thank you.

Okay. Again, thank you Maya and thank you Oliver. Now, we don't have a lot of time, and I'm going to eliminate a couple of things, but I did promise Christopher that he could give his presentation, which I edited, but I want you to be concise and to the point because of the time factor and the fatigue of our sign language interpreters.

Okay. Christopher, the floor is yours.

 >> CHRISTOPHER JONES: Can we put the photo on screen, please? The three pieces of equipment that I wanted to show?

 >> ANDREA SAKS: I do understand that. I don't know if Kaoru was able to incorporate that. I can't do it. I am not the main person. We'll try and see if we can do that, but I did send it to Kaoru. Kaoru will have to see if she can find ‑‑ if it's possible. So we'll try, but carry on with what you're saying and she will text in the chat box when she's able to do that.

 >> CHRISTOPHER JONES: The photo speaks a thousand words, as it were, so if it's possible to get it on the screen, it would be good.

 >> ANDREA SAKS: We will do our best.

 >> CHRISTOPHER JONES: If you could try.

 >> ANDREA SAKS: It is important, I agree, but can you to save time, can you start speaking and we'll try to work on getting that photo up.

 >> CHRISTOPHER JONES: Yes. Yes. Certainly, I will.

I agree with you Andrea that I fleed to be brief in my presentation, and I have actually prepared a shortened version of it, so please don't be worrying.

With the COVID‑19 epidemic, it's not possible to have the face‑to‑face meetings anymore. We have to use virtual meetings instead.

And this poses issues for deaf people who use sign language. The meetings can vary from one to one, maybe small group meetings or large group meetings or conferences. And that includes international meetings. We're having to use computers, laptops, iPads, telephones, and deaf people rely on video, which also depends on how good the bandwidth is. It depends on capacity and whether they've got a strong WiFi signal or not.

Oral deaf, deaf and hard of hearing, are relying on good remote captioning. There are lots of guidelines out there about using sign language within the meeting.

And I think from the different, these are very complicated to set up and it's very difficult to know how to use the different pieces of equipment effectively.

My experience pre‑monday was horrendous in terms of Zoom meetings. I was just feeling it was impossible to do. So this week has been very useful. It's been a massive learning curve for me. And I'm becoming more comfort ablg with the use of Zoom.

I was wanting to show the photo, and I don't know whether you've got the photo available to show yet?

 >> ANDREA SAKS: No, I don't, and I think for me to take the time to get Kaoru to dig it out and do it ‑‑

 >> KAORU MIZUNO: I'm sorry, this is Kaoru. Have you got it?

 >> KAORU MIZUNO: I can show the photo. Can I do that?

 >> ANDREA SAKS: Show the photo, Kaoru. Thank you!

 >> ANDREA SAKS: Yes!

 >> ANDREA SAKS: Okay.

 >> ANDREA SAKS: Okay. Just to let you know that you can see Christopher's house, you can see he has three apparatus, and Christopher and I have communicated this way, too.

 >> CHRISTOPHER JONES: Hold on, hold on, this is my job to do, Andrea, not you.

 >> ANDREA SAKS: Whose job. Who are you talking to.

 >> CHRISTOPHER JONES: Christopher.

 >> ANDREA SAKS: Yes, you can do that, Christopher, I'm sorry. My name is in there. Okay. Go ahead.

 >> CHRISTOPHER JONES: Okay. Thank you. Andrea, and for trying to be helpful.

However, I think what's important for people to realize is that I'm having to use three different computers, three different devices, which has meant I've had to borrow my wife's iPad which she's not happy about it because it's meant that she's not been able to use it through the meet, and I do thank her for lending it to me.

So, if you can see on the left, I've got the shared information on the screen. The middle screen, I'm using that for the interpreters, just for the interpreters. And then the third screen I'm using for the remote captioning so that I'm actually flipping between three screens. But the most important thing really is that deaf people may not have three computers available.

And we do need some sort of solution so that we can use the least number of computers. I mean, this is partly due to the cost of it.

Over the last three days. It's been very difficult. I kept losing the interpreters when shared information comes up on the screen. So I have that now on one screen, but I still lose things on the middle screen. There have been a lot of issues that have come up. And I think I'd like to put this information to Christian so he can present it to Zoom in his meeting tomorrow.

I mean, what we've been hearing, and I think several people have mentioned it, is about choice of sign language interpreters. Interpreters that can meet the needs of the deaf person.

What's really important is the two‑way communication, and if that's not possible, then that's the wrong interpreter. And Oliver mentioned, you know, about users having a choice rather than it being an institutional choice.

I also think it's important that deaf people are able to tune in to the interpretation. My three interpreters this week that I've used, I know well, and I think we're able to tune into each other, so I'd like to express my thanks to them for some very difficult meetings this week. So thank you very much.

 >> ANDREA SAKS: Thank you, Christopher. I appreciate you doing the picture. I think we'll take it off the screen now, but you can see that not everybody can have or afford that information ‑‑ or I mean that ‑‑

 >> INTERPRETER: Pause for interpreter swap, please.

 >> ANDREA SAKS: Okay. Good timing.

 >> INTERPRETER: I'm ready. Thank you.

 >> ANDREA SAKS: Thank you very much.

We're back to the agenda. I think we're going to not discuss the review and comments on the guidelines of remote participation and accessibility meetings because we're doing it in the meeting. We are going to revise them. Lidia and I are going to tear them apart and I'd love everybody to look at them, and if they want to make comments, just send it to either Lidia or myself, but that's a Part of Question 26 and so that's going to be done, but we won't spend time on discussing it because we actually only have about 20 minutes left, if I'm correct. I think. Yes. We only have about 20 minutes left.

Lidia had a presentation on audiovisual accessibility during a world crisis, and also can you combine that with just mentioning the EDF guide for accessible meetings for all, which hopefully we will incorporate into the review on accessible meetings and remote participation, and so Lidia, would you kindly speak, but can you kind of keep ‑‑ keep it unfortunately on the short side while I'm putting those two together? Okay. Go ahead, Lidia.

 >> LIDIA BEST: Andrea, yes. Thank you. Lidia speaking. Can I just quickly read something what Erich has wrote.

 >> ANDREA SAKS: Yes.

 >> LIDIA BEST: Okay. I'm just trying to open ‑‑ yeah. Hold on a second. I've just lost the chat box and I need to open it again.

I'm sorry about that.

 >> ANDREA SAKS: Yes, Erich is important because he's the soul representative to us from Autistic Society.

 >> LIDIA BEST: There are many people that can't afford a computer, we have exclusion due to circumstances such as poverty and inequality here. Maybe this also should be taken into account more when talking about accessibility.

 >> ANDREA SAKS: Okay. I think we'll note that in our Report and I think it's extremely important that we find alternate means or suggestions to the communities who are not able to participate to find ways of maybe getting together to participate. We should definitely take note of that. I have no answer for that. Does anybody have ‑‑ oh, by the way, Maya is just taking off. Thank you, Maya for coming and we appreciate your comments.

I think we should take it more. If you, Erich, would have time to contribute this in writing so we have a document saying this and your other thoughts regarding how persons are excluded, especially those with Autism and those who do not have the financial resources, that would be very helpful to make other people aware.

 >> LIDIA BEST: Okay. Sorry. One more?

 >> ANDREA SAKS: Go ahead and go.

 >> LIDIA BEST: Christian just added it can be very enlightening to see what the experience is like on lower‑end equipment, and point of inequalities in digital access, and I think I can add only what ‑‑ I know in Poland, we're doing some program on giving digital ‑‑ (dog barking) ‑‑ my dog is again, he always knows when to make an entrance. I'm sorry.

 >> ANDREA SAKS: We can hear you. Just keep going.

 >> LIDIA BEST: Yeah. So in Poland, for example, there was a program, a European program to give persons with disabilities equipment such as laptops and things like that, and so I think when we talk about this type of inequality, that's where the government needs to come in and support persons with disabilities with the equipment they need.

 >> CHRISTOPHER JONES: I'm in full agreement with that. Christopher speaking. Yep.

 >> ANDREA SAKS: Thank you. Who is reading the chat box now?

 >> LIDIA BEST: Me.

So for now, chat box is finished. So can I quickly present?

 >> ANDREA SAKS: Yes, please. Yes. Combine the two. 5.3 and 5.4.

 >> LIDIA BEST: Yes. Okay. So first of all, I have been observing what is going on in terms of action toward audiovisual media in general in terms of briefings, national briefings, health official briefings, when we talk about COVID and any restrictions, et cetera. So what I did is I asked, actually, am so of the members during the European Federation of Hard of Hearing Facebook Group to provide me with information, are we receiving accessible information or not? It was really interesting because what they were sending back to me, including the photographs, which we can have in the document which was submitted, is that the quality of provision, and quality means not just actors in general, but also how, for example, with sign language interpreters are presented, has been really not universal way of receiving.

So, for example, COVID‑19 doesn't seem to be treated by many governments as an emergency, in the similar way as we should be preparing themselves for emergency.

In this way, for example, it looks like accessibility is not taken seriously by broadcasters sometimes, or sometimes it's on the government side, and so for example, one of the examples I have given was a photograph from Finland which had an interpreter but captioning was barely readable. Poland was especially, since I'm Polish, Poland was especially quite vivid discussion about a tiny little mini, mini sign language interpreter on the screen and the one I have given to you is still bigger than some that I've seen, and it seems to be that we doo have guidelines, which I have received information about, but we don't seem to be following that.

And this information, this really is not about signing at all, but it's the signing which is provided through the broadcasters so they are responsible for how this is being presented on televisions.

And also, I have given a link to European Union of the Deaf review of how sign language ‑‑ how information is provided in sign language in different countries, but also Poland has not been very accessible to people who don't use sign language, and live captioning barely is there, so this was also a lot of comments, we had a lot of comments on that.

Lastly, there seems to be lack of understanding by broadcasters on sign language and captioning that is often used at the same time and in Poland captioning is overlaying the actual sign language interpreter and here this British UK example shows a much better way of sharing the screen.

Lastly, an example from Greece, but it's not just in Greece where the users who don't understand sign language, and in Greece they're providing sign language on television, had to use just an app on the mobile phone from Google in this case, Google Transcribe, just to get information, just to understand what is being said, which is not good enough at all.

And for this reason, I mentioned that broadcasters, for governments have a duty of care for all citizens, including persons who are deaf and hard of hearing, and those with age‑related disabilities, and so if I would like to work to start with and we do not have to because we already have one, but perhaps we can ask for a request to send liaison to IRG‑AVA, which has many broadcasters in it in membership to remind them of the responsibilities, and also we need to consult closely with user representatives to ensure that no one is left behind during this crisis, and that is especially when it comes to providing sign language interpretation, which has not been good enough in Poland, in this case, but I'm pretty sure other countries as well may have something to say. So this is one presentation.

The second one is a link to the European Disability Forum toolkit guidance which relates to how to make meetings accessible for people with multiple disabilities, so it's a very simple, easy‑to‑follow guide on accessible meetings for all, and especially it relates to Europe, but it can be used by everyone else, and I would really suggest for everyone to have a look at this. It really is useful. I've taken part in the writing part of it and I think you'll find it useful. Thank you.

 >> ANDREA SAKS: Thank you very much, Lidia. We have exactly 15 minutes, so I'm going to ask ‑‑ I've been trying to ask David in the chat box if, in fact, he's already presented this presentation on the use of alternate text in standards, because if a lot of the people that are on here and there is somebody on here calling all the way in from Korea, and I wonder if he would mind if we went to ITU‑T Study Group 20 group with Yong Lee who has been working in another Study Group about accessible requirements and smart public transportation services. David, do you mind if we do that and then come back to you quickly?

 >> DAVID FOURNEY: Yeah. Sure. We can go to Yong Lee. That's fine.

 >> ANDREA SAKS: Okay. Yong, are you there? Can you present and be as concise as you possibly can to give a report on your work? Thank you.

 >> YONG JICK LEE: Thanks, Andrea, and good morning and good afterfloon, and good evening, everyone.

Well, actually, I was trying to ‑‑ I was thinking of presenting this document and gather some comments from all of the participants of JCA‑AHF, but because of the limited time we have, I'd like to suggest that I just briefly introduce the work at the very, very high level, and then after that, maybe if you have any questions, comments, feedback on this work, because this work ‑‑ this document is it already posted in the document area of the JCA‑AHF as the Document Number 389, so if you can read the document, even after the meeting, and if you have any questions or comments, then maybe we can share some thoughts through the emails. My email is on the document itself, and if you're okay, maybe we can share some thoughts through the JCA‑AHF mailing List as well.

So I'll just give a brief like two or three‑sentence introduction of this document and we'll give the floor to the rest of you who are waiting for the presentation.

So there is about the accessibility requirements for Smart Public Transportation Services, and the document, which I attached it to the document 389 is the latest version of this recommendation, this Draft Recommendation, and there is still ongoing work but we're almost about to finish this work, so I really need experts to review and comments so that we can have better quality on this.

This document is about identifying accessibility requirements for smart public transportation services, and we introduced two‑layer structure. One is an information layer with concerns about the information that needs to be provided to users of public transportation. And the information should be accessible.

The second layer is the interface layer which concerns the interactions between the system and the users, through the user interfaces. And then after that, in order to capture the accessibility requirements, we have identified several functional areas and accessible information needed for persons with disabilities, and those functional areas and details are provided in the Appendix 1.

Then we tried to identify the accessibility requirements for each layer, and after the identification of the delivery requirements, with he tried to provide or introduce the accessibility profiles which can be used to support the accessibility requirements. And then in the appendix as I mentioned, the appendix 1 is about the functional area of public transportation which the information should be accessible, and the Appendix 2, we listed some use cases, which is concerned about the accessible smart public transportation services.

So that's just a brief introduction of the work that we have done so far and I really hope that I can get some comments, feedback, or any of your thoughts. Maybe you can exchange some emails or even through the JCA Mailing List if you want to discuss with others as well, and so that's my suggestion and my presentation. Thank you.

 >> ANDREA SAKS: Thank you, Yong. As a star you are always a trooper rising to the occasion and knowing exactly what to say, and yes, I've attended those meetings, and when is the next meeting of Study Group 20?

 >> YONG JICK LEE: It's July. Right after the Study Group 16 meeting.

 >> ANDREA SAKS: Okay. All right. That's fantastic because then we can come and visit you. That's great. Thank you, Yong, and give my best to Daniel.

 >> YONG JICK LEE: Thank you, Andrea.

 >> INTERPRETER: Can we just pause for interpreter swap, please.

 >> ANDREA SAKS: Of course you can. Thank you very much for reminding me.

 >> ANDREA SAKS: Tell me when you're ready.

 >> INTERPRETER: Not quite yet.

 >> ANDREA SAKS: We're going to close in a minute. Could I have 5 extra minutes to close it down, guys? We're going to close by, what is it on the hour, I believe, is that right? Yeah?

 >> LIDIA BEST: Andrea, David just said that live meetings are being a topic and talking from ISO General Assembly which was supposed to be 23 or 24 of September in Abu Dabi has been canceled and there is an issue with everybody canceling.

 >> ANDREA SAKS: Thank you. Can we not read the chat box right this minute.

 >> LIDIA BEST: Okay.

 >> ANDREA SAKS: Thank you. Are we ready to go? Okay.

Masahito, are you still there? I think he may be gone because it's very late in Japan, and so David, if you would like to quickly give us your text, your alternate text in about a 5 minutes, that would be great, and then we're going to have to wind up.

 >> DAVID FOURNEY: Sure. If I can just ask Kaoru to bring up the text really quickly of the ISO document, that would be perfect. And in the meantime while I wait for that ‑‑ and while I wait for Kaoru to do that, I'm just going to start speaking. Just a moment, I'm waiting for Christopher. Christopher is good? Okay.

>> (Speaking off mic).

 >> DAVID FOURNEY: Oh, Masahito is there. Is that you, Masahito.

 >> ANDREA SAKS: Well Masahito, technically he's before you.

 >> MASAHITO KAWAMORI: Who is before me?

 >> ANDREA SAKS: David.

 >> MASAHITO KAWAMORI: David is before me. Okay. Go ahead.

 >> ANDREA SAKS: Okay. David is going to be quick. We've only got 6 minutes.

 >> DAVID FOURNEY: Right, so I just wanted to highlight that this particular document ISO/IEC200.1‑11 this is guidance on text alternative for images. The working group that published this document in December of last year has put forward a recommendation to ITU to publish this document as a twin text, and we're in the middle of doing that right now with a loap to get that out in July. Morph, there is a second recommendation that the working group in ITU has also put forward and I want to make sure that it comes to this particular group, and that is that they have recommended that ITU adopt this document for use in the offering of all internal documents of all standards, et cetera, so that, for example, technical diagrams, illustrations, any other graphics that might be in an ITU standard have text alternatives provided so that people who can't see the graphics, people who can't understand the graphics, have another way of understanding the graphic.

One of the things that ISO has adopted as a general practice and one of its own directives is that we use this very same document as the guidance that we use when describing technical diagrams in our documents.

What we do in ISO is we actually don't use the alternative text systems that Adobe and Word provide, but we actually put the alternative text into the main body text of the document so it's visible to everybody.

So, the request to the JCA is, basically, just to endorse this recommendation so that when SG16 receives at some point the liaison statement from ISO about this, that you know, the JCA is aware of it, communicates to SG16 that you're aware of it, and that you support it.

Now, that might mean that I have to craft a liaison statement from JCA, but I at least wanted to make sure the topic was raised and we could determine whether or not there are objections with the endorsements. Thank you.

 >> ANDREA SAKS: The JCA can't endorse anything, I'm sorry David, but the JCA can't do that. It doesn't have it in the remit. The JCA can help you present and make things public, but I think if you want to do joint work, this is possible through Question 26 and the fact that you have introduced it here, there are possibilities that offline, Simao, Masahito, myself, and some other people we can, and Kaoru, we can figure out a way to get some kind of exposure. But the JCA does not do standards at all in any way, shape, or form, or endorse. We simply give information and have a forum that people can go and speak into.

But it's not a closed door. It's just that the remit for the JCA doesn't allow that.

 >> DAVID FOURNEY: Thank you for the clarification. And again, this is ‑‑ I just want to make sure that everybody is informed, so if you have questions, just let me know. I will put my email address in the chat and you can email me if you have any thoughts or questions.

 >> ANDREA SAKS: I'm just going to ask the interpreters. Can I have 5 more minutes, please to give Masahito the floor about COVID‑19 and then we'll close the meeting? Is that okay? Interpreters?

 >> CHRISTOPHER JONES: Christopher is saying that's not a fair question.

 >> ANDREA SAKS: Well, tell Christopher he talks too much. Anyway, (Laughing).

Is that okay? Can we do that? Just for 5 minutes, please?

 >> CHRISTOPHER JONES: You talk too much too, Christopher has responded. This is Mo the interpreter, I'm fine for five more minutes.

 >> ANDREA SAKS: Thank you very much. Okay. Thank you very much. Masahito, you're back, can you quickly explain the UN webinar protecting persons with disabilities with COVID, and then we have to close down. We're not going to do the liaison meeting ‑‑ or the liaison statements now.

 >> MASAHITO KAWAMORI: Thank you very much. The United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asian Pacific, UNESCAP and they had a weapon nar on protecting persons with disabilities from COVID‑19, and so this is the webinar page.

The content is on the YouTube, and so if you want ‑‑ if you're interested, please go ahead and take a look and you can see the reality of what's happening in the world, where not just persons with disabilities, with hearing, as well as visual impairment, but there are all kinds of different disabilities of people and how they're coping with the COVID‑19 situation. There are many videos, and also, actually, we have people Napa licker from Nepal listening to what we're discussing here also, and so this is what the United Nations is doing and especially in the area of Asian Pacific. Thank you.

 >> ANDREA SAKS: Thank you, Masahito, and welcome Sabine, and I see that you're on the list.

Kaoru and I will do ‑‑

 >> MASAHITO KAWAMORI: It's not Sabine.

 >> ANDREA SAKS: Oh, I'm sorry. I don't see her there.

 >> MASAHITO KAWAMORI: She's there.

 >> ANDREA SAKS: Okay. Well (Speaking off mic).

 >> ANDREA SAKS: I'm sorry. You weren't finished? Carry on. We have 4 more minutes. Were you finished or not? I'm sorry. Masahito, can you hear me?

 >> MASAHITO KAWAMORI: Yeah, I can hear you. Depa is deaf so I think ‑‑

 >> ANDREA SAKS: Right, I don't see her there, but we'll send her a copy of the captioning.

 >> MASAHITO KAWAMORI: Yeah.

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

 >> MASAHITO KAWAMORI: She can sign something.

 >> ANDREA SAKS: Le well, I don't have her connected with visual.

 >> MASAHITO KAWAMORI: I can see her. And you can see her too.

 >> ANDREA SAKS: No. I cannot. I'm sorry. I cannot. And we've kind of run out of time, but we'll make sure that this is an attachment to the report, Kaoru and I will make sure because it's very important, the work that's being done here, and I'm sorry that we can't give more time. We have literally 3 minutes, and what I wanted to say, briefly, was thank you to the interpreters, thank you to the captioners, thank you for everyone. Thank you for Kaoru for getting all of this down on paper properly. We won't worry about the liaison statement and we'll do that under another circumstance. We'll just do that via remote by email. And I want to thank Oliver and Masahito, you, and Christopher for good presentations and from Maya De Wit coming and we'll be meeting with you hopefully, and we don't have a date shows and if Simao is on, and he wasn't going to be ‑‑ Simao is still there. Simao, we would like to have a meeting co, if it's going to continue remotely with stiewg 16 Question 26 to continue some of these aspects, if that is possible, and so if we could meet offline to discuss that and we'll let everybody know.

Anybody have any burning last comments that they would like to say? Either in the chat box or verbally?

 >> LIDIA BEST: Yes, Andrea. Me. Just to assure you and everyone else I have saved the chat so I can send that file to everyone.

 >> ANDREA SAKS: Oh, I can see Napali, I can see her, I can see her now. Hello!

Well, anyway, thank you very, very much, and with that, if there are no other comments, I have to close the meeting. Oh, there are two in the chat. Anything in the chat before we go?

 >> LIDIA BEST: Yes, it's been saved.

 >> ANDREA SAKS: Okay. You've saved the chat. That's fantastic. Thank you. Thank you very, very much. Okay. Hello and good bye, and we will be in touch soon for the next meeting if we aren't canceled for June and July. And Simao, are you still there?

So here we all are saying good bye, right. Thank you. Bye for now. Thank you for coming. It sounds like I threw a party but without the champagne. Thank you very much, maybe next year. Bye. thank you, ent for all the technical and Lidia doing the chat box. Bye for now.

(session completed at 11:06 a.m. CST).

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