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| **Keywords:** | JCA-AHF; accessibility; persons with disabilities; report |
| **Abstract:** | This document provides the draft report of JCA-AHF meeting (Geneva, 26 October 2022). |

**Related links:**

* [JCA-AHF webpage](https://www.itu.int/en/ITU-T/jca/ahf/Pages/default.aspx)
* [Meeting documents page](https://www.itu.int/en/ITU-T/jca/ahf/Pages/202210-docs.aspx)

1. Opening of the meeting

The JCA-AHF e-meeting was held on 26 October 2022 chaired by Ms Andrea Saks (USA), JCA-AHF Chairman. Real-time captioning and Interpretation of British Sign Language (BSL) were provided. The list of participants is available on JCA-AHF [Document 479](https://staging.itu.int/en/ITU-T/jca/ahf/Documents/docs-2022/Oct/JCA-AHF-Doc479.docx).

1. Approval of the agenda

The Chairman introduced the draft JCA-AHF meeting agenda and document allocation as contained in JCA-AHF [Document 448](https://www.itu.int/en/ITU-T/jca/ahf/Documents/docs-2021/April/JCA-AHF-Doc448.docx). It was approved by the JCA-AHF (with some changes due to unavailability of some speakers).

1. Approval of the last JCA-AHF meeting report

The Chairman introduced the draft report of the last JCA-AHF meeting (26 January 2022)(JCA-AHF [Doc 463](https://www.itu.int/en/ITU-T/jca/ahf/Documents/docs-2022/Oct/JCA-AHF-Doc463.docx)) and the report was approved.

She opened a discussion on the JCA-AHF presentation at TSAG (item 5 of [Doc 463](https://www.itu.int/en/ITU-T/jca/ahf/Documents/docs-2021/September/JCA-AHF-Doc463.docx)). Mr Christopher Jones, co-vice chair of JCA-AHF, emphasised that meetings should be fully accessible. Ms Lidia Best, co-vice chair of JCA-AHF, highlighted that hearing loop should be installed at new ITU building. To address the needs of parsons with disabilities, the JCA-AHF Chairman and co-vice Chairs will form an informal group to discuss accessibility of ITU meetings and new ITU building, and will participate in meetings of the TSAG Ad-Hoc Group on Governance and Management of e-meetings (AHG-GME) (next meetings will take place on 4 November and 13 December 2022) as well as Inter-Sector Coordination Group ([ISCG](https://www.itu.int/en/general-secretariat/Pages/intersectoral-coordination.aspx)) (date to be announced) to which the JCA-AHF Chairman is ITU-wide coordinator on accessibility (see item 5 below).

# Updates on ITU Resolutions: Telecommunication/information and communication technology accessibility for persons with disabilities and persons with specific needs

The following Resolutions on accessibility for persons with disabilities were updated this year. The JCA-AHF Chairman will have a close look at those documents.

- [PP-22](https://pp22.itu.int/en/) Resolution 175 (rev. Bucharest, 2022) ([Provisional Final Acts](https://www.itu.int/md/S22-PP-C-0202/en) of the PP-22, TIES restricted)

- WTSA [Resolution 70 (Rev. Geneva, 2022)](https://www.itu.int/pub/T-RES-T.70-2022)

- WTDC-22 Resolution 58 (Rev. Kigali, 2022) ([WTDC-22 Final Report](https://www.itu.int/en/publications/ITU-D/pages/publications.aspx?parent=D-TDC-WTDC-2022&media=electronic))

1. Inter-Sector Coordination Group ([ISCG](https://www.itu.int/en/general-secretariat/Pages/ISCG/default.aspx)) on issues of mutual interest

TSAG nominated the JCA-AHF Chairman as ITU-wide coordinator on accessibility in ISCG at TSAG in January 2022. She will participate in the next ISCG meeting (date to be announced).

1. Updates from ITU-T Q26/16

Mr Masahito Kawamori, Rapporteur of Q26/16, reported the results of the Q26/16 held on 24-25 October 2022. A revised technical paper ITU-T FSTP.ACC-WebVRI (V2) "Guideline on web-based remote sign language interpretation or video remote interpretation (VRI) system" was approved. Work started for a new Technical Paper FSTP-ACC-Rural "Use cases of accessibility to multimedia systems in rural and out-of-home environments" Collaborative work continued within the IRG-AVA on draft ITU-T Rec. on "Common user profile format for audiovisual content distribution" and with JTC1/SC35 "User interfaces" for two joint texts:

Draft Guidance on the Visual presentation of audio information, including captions and subtitles (twin text of ISO/IEC 20071-23).

Draft Visual presentation of audio information in sign languages (twin text of ISO/IEC 20071-24).

An extensive discussion on accessibility for metaverse was made in order to start to understand accessibility needs in this area.

1. Updates from SG20

Mr Daniel (Hark) Sohn reported the updates of accessibility work done during the ITU-T SG20 meeting that took place from 18–28 July 2022, in Geneva, Switzerland.

-LS on Guidelines on developing ICT services for accessible smart cities [from ITU-T SG20] [Doc 471](https://www.itu.int/en/ITU-T/jca/ahf/Documents/docs-2022/Oct/JCA-AHF-Doc471.zip)

This liaison statement informs that SG20 initiated a new [draft Technical Report ITU-T YSTR.ACC-SCC](https://www.itu.int/ITU-T/workprog/wp_item.aspx?isn=18454) “Guidelines on developing ICT services for accessible smart cities”

- LS on accessibility matters [from ITU-T SG20] [Doc 472​](https://www.itu.int/en/ITU-T/jca/ahf/Documents/docs-2022/Oct/JCA-AHF-Doc472.zip)

This LS informs the updates to [draft Recommendation ITU-T Y.ACC-UI-req](https://www.itu.int/ITU-T/workprog/wp_item.aspx?isn=17948) “Accessibility requirements for user interface of smart applications supporting IoT” (Ref. [ITU-T SG20-TD286-R1](https://www.itu.int/md/T22-SG20-220718-TD-GEN-0286/en)) .

Mr Gerry Ellis, co-vice chair of JCA-AHF, asked if G3ict’s Smart City Group is aware of the work. Ms Best reported that she had already informed G3ict of this, and she would take care of any communication on this matter.

1. Update of the SG 6/WP 6C activities

Mr Andy Quested, Chair ITU-R WP 6C, reported that during the Working Party 6C meeting there has been a contribution on a new area for ITU-R B22.07 “Accessibility to broadcast services for Persons with Disabilities” to add a new section on audio description for live content. There was also an aspect of an audio description added over a radio broadcast. Work started on a new Recommendation “A Vision for the Future of Broadcasting” and a proposal for a new Report “A Vision for the Future of Broadcast Production”.

1. Bot Topic: Debate continues over the role of AI interpreting has in BSL access industry

Mr Jones presented JCA-AHF [Doc 473](https://www.itu.int/en/ITU-T/jca/ahf/Documents/docs-2022/Oct/JCA-AHF-Doc473.docx).

The document addresses concerns raised by the WFD, EFSLI and NUBBSL over the quality of avatars and how they can be used in access industry. It is seen not to replace human sign language interpreting. It is a choice which may not be easy for some Deaf people to make.

Questions were raised about: who decides the quality of avatars; the definition of quality. It was proposed to make a new work item on this topic, and Mr Jones will make a contribution to Q26/16.

1. New functionality of Zoom

The JCA-AHF Chairman requested TSB to provide information on new functionality of Zoom. Mr Gent Bajrami, IT Support Officer from ITU TSB, provided his comment.

Zoom has finally implemented the long-awaited feature of Sign Language Interpretation. Meeting and webinar hosts can now designate multiple participants as sign language interpreters, and participants can choose which sign language interpretation channel they want to see. When enabled, the new button “Interpretation” will be visible for all participants. When selected, a standalone resizable window will pop up with the video feed of the sign language interpreter.

As this feature was released beginning of October 2022, ITU/TSB did not have enough time to conduct the proper testing of it, therefore it was not used during the current SG16, IRG-AVA and JCA-AHF meetings in October 2022.

This feature will be available for the upcoming meetings.

1. HAICU Video Remote Interpreting Platform — Our Experience from the Pandemic

Mr Dušan Caf from Digitas Institute presented his slides titled “HAICU Video Remote Interpreting Platform — Our Experience from the Pandemic” ([Doc 478​](https://staging.itu.int/en/ITU-T/jca/ahf/Documents/docs-2022/Oct/JCA-AHF-Doc%20478.pdf)). The project focuses on a solution to difficulties faced by persons with disabilities during the Covid-19 Pandemic by providing web-based remote sign language interpreting services that is compliant with ITU-T Technical Paper [FSTP-ACC.WebVRI](https://www.itu.int/pub/publications.aspx?lang=en&parent=T-TUT-FSTP-2020-ACC.WEBVRI) “Guideline on web-based remote sign language interpretation or video remote interpretation (VRI) system”. They are conducting testbeds activities. The services allow Sign Language users to access necessary services such as medical consultation. The system is implemented in Croatia (product called “Slavica”). Mr Caf confirmed to report updates of their work in next JCA-AHF meetings.

1. Updates A ‘left-alone’ hearing loss - the silent thief of cognition

Mr Haim Mazar, Vice Chairman ITU-R SG5, ATDI, provided presentation slides titled “Hearing loss - the silent thief of cognition: International, regional and national regulations of the wireless part” ([Doc 477​](https://www.itu.int/en/ITU-T/jca/ahf/Documents/docs-2022/Oct/JCA-AHF-Doc477.zip) ) but could not participate in the JCA-AHF meeting. The JCA-AHF Chairman invited the members to have a look at this document.

1. European Accessibility Act - Ensuring that ITU Recommendations are in line with standards from other bodies, particularly in view of the European Accessibility Act

Mr Ellis raised a question on how it is ensured that ITU standards are in line with other legislation such as EN301549 and US section 508.

ITU develops international standards in collaboration with other entities, including other UN bodies, and harmonized work is being done through liaisons with other regional or national bodies.

1. Review of ITU policies and/or Recommendations in the area of wayfinding (reference: [ITU-T F.921(2018)](https://www.itu.int/rec/T-REC-F.921-201808-I) : Audio-based indoor and outdoor network navigation system for persons with vision impairment)

Mr Ellis suggested to start reviewing the current version of [ITU-T F.921(2018)](https://www.itu.int/rec/T-REC-F.921-201808-I) : Audio-based indoor and outdoor network navigation system for persons with vision impairment, as Artificial Intelligence is being included in wayfinding systems, therefore it should be addressed in the Recommendation. The suggestion was well received.

1. Help2type, a product helps visual impaired people to communicate in the digital world

Mr Marcel Rösch, founder of help2type GmbH, presented the slides in JCA-AHF [Doc 475](https://www.itu.int/en/ITU-T/jca/ahf/Documents/docs-2022/Oct/JCA-AHF-Doc475.pdf) . He developed a solution for blind people to type on smartphone with a small physical keyboard externally attached to smartphone. Dictate function of smartphones is not sufficient for blind people to write business emails or confidential messages in public. Target group of this product is blind people as well as older people as they have problems with dry skin of their fingers.

Possible standardization areas related to this product, such as communication protocols for interoperability and security issues, were discussed. Mr Marcel and Mr Kawamori will discuss further offline if a new Work Item can be considered at Q26/16.

1. Accessibility of ITU buildings for hard of hearing delegates, specifically lack of portable neckloops for those using hearing loops

Ms Best highlighted that the necessity to ensure that neckloops will be available in ITU buildings, especially in the new one. The matter will be addressed to appropriate groups of the new building project and Ms Best will provide advice on it.

1. New Bluetooth Accessibility and two public statements related to this: IFHOH Congress (Budapest Declaration); EHIMA, manufacturers of hearing instruments

Ms Best presented JCA-AHF [Doc 476​](https://www.itu.int/en/ITU-T/jca/ahf/Documents/docs-2022/Oct/JCA-AHF-Doc476.zip). This document contains two public statements from IFHOT Congress and EHIMA related to new Bluetooth Accessibility, Auracast. She highlighted that many hard of hearing people use Hearing Loops, FM, IR and Telecoiles, thus should not be dismissed due to Auracast, at least until all users will have been using hearing devices working over Bluetooth.

1. ISO 30071-1 and Digital Accessibility Maturity

Mr Jonathan Hassell, CEO of Hassell Inclusion Ltd, UK, made presentation on ISO standard on accessibility score cards (ISO/IEC 30071-1:2019) developed in JTC1/SC35, with which SG16 collaborates (PPT slides were not shared yet).

ISO 30071-1 is not a technical standard, but a managerial one. It is a practical framework to help you strategically embed accessibility in your organization and products and get the best from technical accessibility standards. JCA-AHF noted the presentation.

1. Incoming Liaison Statements

## LS on Current Activities of FG-AI4A [from ITU-T FG-AI4A to various groups] [Doc 465](https://www.itu.int/en/ITU-T/jca/ahf/Documents/docs-2022/Oct/JCA-AHF-Doc465.docx)

The JCA-AHF Chairman will have a close look and follow-up on this LS.

* 1. LS on a socio-economic analysis of PTS-procured telephony services for people with disabilities [from ITU-T SG2] [Doc 466](https://www.itu.int/en/ITU-T/jca/ahf/Documents/docs-2022/Oct/JCA-AHF-Doc466.zip)

The LS was noted by the JCA-AHF.

* 1. LS on SG12 liaison representatives to ITU-T Study Groups, SCV and JCAs [from ITU-T SG12] [Doc 467](https://www.itu.int/en/ITU-T/jca/ahf/Documents/docs-2022/Oct/JCA-AHF-Doc467.docx)

The LS was noted by the JCA-AHF.

* 1. LS/r on Consideration for accessible meetings (reply to TSAG-LS50) [from ITU-T SG5] [Doc 468](https://www.itu.int/en/ITU-T/jca/ahf/Documents/docs-2022/Oct/JCA-AHF-Doc468.docx)

The LS was noted by the JCA-AHF.

* 1. LS/r on Consideration for accessible meetings (TSAG-LS50) [from ITU-T SG11] [Doc 469](https://www.itu.int/en/ITU-T/jca/ahf/Documents/docs-2022/Oct/JCA-AHF-Doc469.docx)

The LS was noted by the JCA-AHF.

* 1. LS/r on Consideration for accessible meetings (reply to TSAG-LS50) [from ITU-T SG20] [Doc 470](https://www.itu.int/en/ITU-T/jca/ahf/Documents/docs-2022/Oct/JCA-AHF-Doc470.docx)

The LS was noted by the JCA-AHF.

* 1. LS on Guidelines on developing ICT services for accessible smart cities [from ITU-T SG20] [Doc 471](https://www.itu.int/en/ITU-T/jca/ahf/Documents/docs-2022/Oct/JCA-AHF-Doc471.zip)

This LS was presented under item 7 above.

* 1. LS on accessibility matters [from ITU-T SG20] [Doc 472​](https://www.itu.int/en/ITU-T/jca/ahf/Documents/docs-2022/Oct/JCA-AHF-Doc472.zip)

This LS was presented under item 7 above.

* 1. LS on invitation to provide inputs to the roadmap of AI and IoT activities for digital agriculture [FG-AI4A to various groups] [Doc 474](https://www.itu.int/en/ITU-T/jca/ahf/Documents/docs-2022/Oct/JCA-AHF-Doc474.docx)

The LS was noted by the JCA-AHF.

1. Any Other Business

**International Day of Sign Languages**

Mr Kawamori briefly reported on the activities conducted by a local private broadcaster in Japan for the International Day of Signe Languages on 23 September 2022.Okayama Broadcasting (Okayama, Japan) broadcasted a 100-minute live program with sign language interpretation ([video](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=WlJ2TtzaKok&feature=emb_logo); [behind-the-scenes report](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=WooeHAyWVRE)) . The Japanese Federation of the Deaf participated in the program (JFD’s [announcement](https://www-jfd-or-jp.translate.goog/2022/09/21/pid24415?_x_tr_sl=auto&_x_tr_tl=en&_x_tr_hl=en)). Mr Kawamori also introduced a project supported by Toyota to enable everyone to enjoy motor sports, and its main part was a program with real-time sign language description (video [1](https://youtu.be/Elc0X2Lw5uM?t=506), [2](https://youtu.be/Elc0X2Lw5uM?t=3278), [3](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Elc0X2Lw5uM)).

1. Future events

Future events

- Next [ITU-D Q7/1 meeting](https://www.itu.int/net4/ITU-D/CDS/sg/blkmeetings.asp?lg=1&sp=2022&blk=28156), Geneva, 28 November – 2 December.

- ITU-D Accessible ICT for ALL regional knowledge development Forums: Asia-Pacific on 1-3 Nov 2022; The Americas on 16 to 18 Nov; Europe on 6 Dec 2022.

- ITU-T TSAG: 12-16 December 2202, Geneva.

1. Next JCA-AHF meeting

To be decided and announced accordingly.

## Closing

The JCA-AHF Chair thanked all speakers of the meeting, participants, SL interpreters, captioner and TSB. She closed the meeting.

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