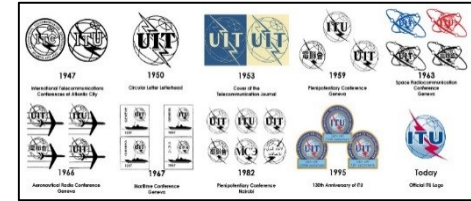# ITU-T Study Group 3

General overview of ITU-T SG3 and its Regional Groups

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Counsellor, ITU-T SG3

Tariff Issues:
ITU's long history
and solid mandate

- Our work on tariffs and interconnection dates back to the origins of the ITU and as such, it can be said that it is part of the very DNA of the organization.

- On tariff issues, **ITU-T Study Group 3** is the successor of *Committees of Rapporteurs* (later renamed study groups) dating back to **1928**. The 1926 CCIF Plenary Assembly set up these groups to study specific questions.

Assembly	Study Group	Name of Study Group
1926	6e Commission de Rapporteurs	Exploitation
	7e Commission de Rapporteurs	Trafic et exploitation
1927	6e Commission de Rapporteurs	Trafic et exploitation
1928-1954	7e Commission de Rapporteurs	Tarification / Tarification téléphonique

Today's ITU-T Study Group 3

- The mandate of SG3 for the 2013-2016 study period was confirmed by WTSA in Dubai in November 2012

- Study Group 3 is responsible for, *inter alia:*

  ➢ **Tariff and accounting** matters for international telecommunication services (including **costing** methodologies)

  ➢ Related telecommunications accounting, **economic and policy** issues

- WTSA-12 Resolution 2 goes on to say that SG3:

  ➢ ..."shall in particular foster collaboration among its participants with a view to the **establishment of rates** <u>at levels as low as possible</u> consistent with an efficient service and taking into account the necessity for maintaining independent financial administration of telecommunications on a sound basis"

SG3 and ITU-T Recommendations

- SG3 is the home for **ITU-T D Series Recommendations** – for example:

  - ➢ Charging and accounting in NGN, international satellite, mobile services (e.g. Recommendation **ITU-T D.271**)

  - ➢ Transmission of accounting information, time-scale for settlement of accounts (e.g. Recommendation **ITU-T D. 195**)

  - ➢ Principles applicable to international internet connection (Recommendation **ITU-T D.50**)

- SG3 is also the home for **Regional Recommendations** on tariff and accounting:

  - ➢ D. 300s (EUR), D. 400s (LAC), D500s (AO), D.600s (AFR)

  - ➢ e.g. D.500 R**:** *Accounting rates applicable to telephone relations b/w countries in Asia and Oceania*, or D.603R *Minimizing collection charges on inter-African calls*

The structure of SG3

- Study Groups are structured according to a number of **Questions (Qs)** and **Working Parties (WPs).**

- Generally speaking, the work of SG3 is organized into 3 Working Parties, which meet at every SG3 Meeting

- The Chairman of SG3 is Seiichi Tsugawa (KDDI, Japan).

- There are 8 Vice-Chairmen (see contacts here)

- The day-to-day work of the Study Group (esp. between meetings) relies heavily on **Rapporteur Groups**:

  ➢ SG3 currently has 12 rapporteur groups and a number of [Rapporteurs and Co-Rapporteurs](here)

First meeting of a New Regional Group

- In December 2015, the new Regional Group SG3RG-RCC/CIS held its first meeting in Baku, Azerbaijan.

- With this **6th Regional Group,** SG3 now has the largest number of regional groups of any ITU-T study group

SG3 has 6 Regional Groups,
<u>5</u> of which are active in this study period

SG3RG-AFR	**Study Group 3 Regional Group for Africa**
SG3RG-AO	**Study Group 3 Regional Group for Asia and Oceania**
SG3RG-ARB	**Study Group 3 Regional Group for the Arab States**
SG3RG-LAC	**Study Group 3 Regional Group for Latin America & the Caribbean**
SG3RG-RCC/CIS	**Study Group 3 Regional Group for RCC/CIS**
SG3RG-EURM	**Study Group 3 Regional Group for Europe and the Mediterranean Basin**

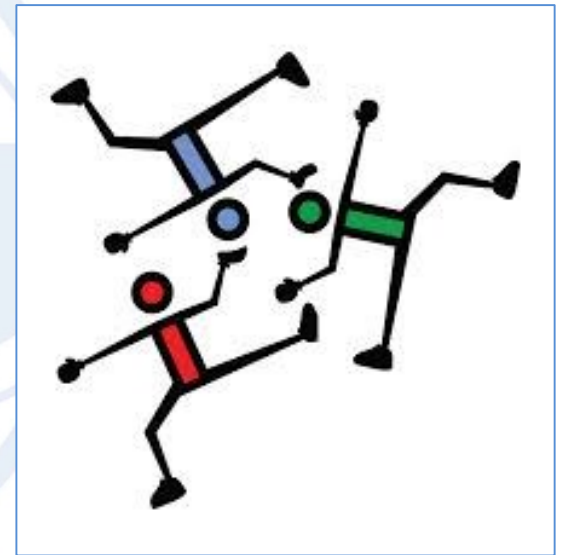**Resolution 54 of WTSA-12** invites the regions and its Member States, *inter alia*

- To pursue the creation of regional groups of parent ITU-T study groups…
- To develop draft terms of reference and working methods for these regional groups, which are to be approved by the parent SG…
- To create regional standardization bodies, as appropriate …

invites the regional groups thus created:

- To **disseminate information** about telecommunication standardization…
- To **encourage involvement of developing countries** in standardization activities in their regions…
- To **submit written contributions** to parent study group reflecting the priorities of the relevant region…

Key Topics by Working Party

- WP 1: International internet connectivity, and economic impact of transition from IPv4 to IPv6
- WP 1: Universal Service
- WP 1: NGN Charging
- WP 2: International mobile roaming
- WP 2: Mobile Financial Services
- WP 2: Dispute resolution
- WP 2: Commercial Agreements
- WP 3: Alternative Calling Procedures
- WP 3: Economic impact of OTTs
- WP 3: Competition Policy and SMP
- WP 3: Governance

Agreement on an additional Question in 2016

	Question title
A/3	Development of charging and accounting/settlement mechanisms for international telecommunications services using the Next Generation Networks (NGNs), future networks, and any possible future development, including adaptation of existing D-series Recommendations to the evolving user needs
B/3	Development of charging and accounting/settlement mechanisms for international telecommunications services, other than those studied in Question 1/3, including adaptation of existing D-series Recommendations to the evolving user needs
C/3	Study of economic and policy factors relevant to the efficient provision of international telecommunication services
D/3	Regional studies for the development of cost models together with related economic and policy issues
E/3	Terms and definitions for Recommendations dealing with tariff and accounting principles together with related economic and policy issues
F/3	International Internet Connectivity including relevant aspects of IP peering, regional traffic exchange points, cost of provision of services and impact of transition from IPv4 to IPv6
G/3	International Mobile Roaming issues (including charging, accounting and settlement mechanisms and roaming at border areas)
H/3	Alternative Calling Procedures and Misappropriation and Misuse of facilities and services including CLI, CPND and OI.
I/3	Economic and regulatory impact of the Internet, convergence (services or infrastructure) and new services, such as OTT, on international telecommunication services and networks
J/3	Definition of relevant markets, competition policy and identification of operators with SMP as it relates to the economic aspects of the international telecommunication services and networks
K/3	**Economic and policy aspects of big data and digital identity in international telecommunications services and networks**

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ITU

Recommendations Determined in 2016

New   **Revised**

ITU-T D.52

"**Establishing and connecting regional Internet Exchange Points (IXPs) to reduce costs of international Internet connectivity**" will guide regional collaboration to establish central hubs (IXPs) that enable local Internet traffic to be routed locally, saving international bandwidth and reducing the costs of international Internet connectivity.

ITU-T D.53

"**International aspects of Universal Service**" offers guidelines to increase compliance with Universal Service policies as well as the extent to which they achieve their goal of delivering a minimum level of ICT services to every inhabitant of a country.

ITU-T D.97

"**Methodological principles for determining international mobile roaming rates**" proposes a possible approach to the reduction of excessive roaming rates, highlighting the need to encourage competition in the roaming market, educate consumers and consider appropriate regulatory actions such as the introduction of caps on roaming rates.

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Recommendations Determined in 2016

New　**Revised**

ITU-T D.261

"Principles for market definition and identification of operators with significant market power" proposes principles and guidelines to assist countries in defining and identifying significant market power and assess whether or not, and the degree to which, this power has been abused by international telecommunications companies.

ITU-T D.271

"Charging and accounting principles for Next-Generation Network (NGN)" sets out the general principles and conditions applicable to the use of packet-based networks to transport packets between standards-based interfaces and the services that they support.

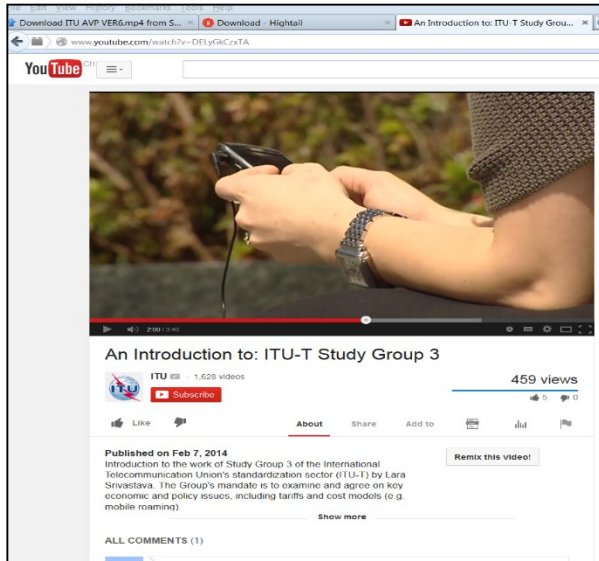# Recommendations, Resolutions and Treaty Articles related to the work of SG3

- ITU-T D-Series Recommmendations

- WTSA-12 Resolution 29 on Alternative Calling Procedures

- WTSA-12 Resolution 44 on Bridging the Standardization Gap

- WTSA-12 Resolution 54 on Creation of and Assistance to Regional Groups

- WTSA-12 Resolution 61 on Countering and combating Misappropriation and misuse of international telecommunication numbering resources

- WTSA-12 Resolution 62 on Dispute Settlement

- WTSA-12 Resolution 64 on IP address allocation and facilitating the transition to and deployment of IPv6

- WTSA-12 Resolution 65 on Calling Party Number Delivery (CPND), Calling Line Identification (CLI), and Origin Identification (OI)

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Recommendations, Resolutions and Treaty Articles related to the work of SG3 (cont'd)

- [WTSA-12 Opinion 1](#) on the Practical Application of Network Externality Premium
- ITR Article 3.7 on Regional Traffic Exchange Points
- ITR Article 4.4 to 4.7 on Mobile Roaming
- ITR Article 8.1.2 on Encouraging Investments and Competitive Wholesale Pricing
- ITR Article 8.1.1. and 8.2.1 on Use of Commercial Agreements for international telecommunication service arrangements
- ITR Article 8.3.1 on Avoidance of Double Taxation for international telecommunication services
- WCIT Resolution 5 on International telecoms service traffic termination and exchange

Vides on SG3

Introduction to ITU-T Study Group 3

Tackling the cost of international mobile roaming

Thank you

We look forward to seeing you at

an ITU-T Study Group 3 meeting

in the near future!

For more information, please contact us at tsbsg3@itu.int or check out our website at:

www.itu.int/tariffs