

# Executive Summary of ITU-T Study Group 3 Meeting

*Tariff and accounting principles and international  
telecommunication/ICT economic and policy issues*

Virtual, 24-28 August 2020

# About the Meeting

- Fifth and final SG3 meeting in the 2017-2020 study period; second fully virtual meeting.
- Last SG3 meeting was held virtually from 31 March to 9 April 2020.
- Fully virtually with interactive remote participation from 24-28 August 2020 via MyMeetings platform.
- Working hours were set from 11:00 to 14:30 (Geneva time), having three sessions and no breaks in between sessions.
- Interpretation for English and French was available until 14:00 (Geneva time) and the sessions were run in English only for the remaining 30 minutes of the meeting. This was the first time for TSB to have a SG virtual meeting with ITU interpreters using MyMeetings as a platform.

# About the Meeting (continued)

- TAP Consultation results were reviewed on ITU-T D.265 (D.ModelTTC), ITU-T D.266 (D.OTTMNO), and ITU-T D.267 (D.DigID). See [SG3-TD242-R1/PLEN](#) for results.
- Four interim SG3 Regional Group meetings were held as follows. These meetings were the first virtual regional meetings for SG3.
  - SG3 Regional Group for Asia and Oceania (SG3RG-AO),  
Virtual, 23-26 June 2020
  - SG3 Regional Group for Africa (SG3RG-AFR),  
Virtual, 6-10 July 2020 (using remote French-English interpretation)
  - SG3 Regional Group for Latin America and the Caribbean (SG3RG-LAC),  
Virtual, 15-17 July 2020
  - SG3 Regional Group for the Arab Region (SG3RG-ARB),  
Virtual, 28 July 2020

# Appointment of Working Party Chairman, Rapporteurs, and Liaison Rapporteur

- The meeting agreed to the following appointments:

<b>SG3 Role</b>	<b>Previously held by</b>	<b>Newly Appointed to</b>
<b>Working Party 4/3 Chairman</b>	Ms. Vinod Kotwal (India)	Mr. Dominique WURGES (France)
<b>Q4/3 Rapporteur</b>	Ms. Hye Jin Park (Rep. of Korea)	Mr. Min Suk LEE (Rep. of Korea)
<b>Q7/3 Rapporteur</b>	Mr. Adel Darwish (Bahrain)	Mr. Steven Noamesi K. ZIKPI (Togo)
<b>Q11/3 Rapporteur</b>	Ms. Vinod Kotwal (India)	Mr. Shailendra Kumar MISHRA (India)
<b>Liaison Rapporteur</b>	Mr. Adel Darwish (Bahrain)	Ms. Karima MAHMOUDI (Tunisia)

# Meeting Statistics

- Contributions: 26
- Contributors include:
  - AT&T (USA), Bahamas, Brazil, Canada, Cameroon, Cote d'Ivoire, Dominican Republic, Egypt, Rep. of Korea, Honduras, India, Paraguay, Rwanda, SONATEL (Senegal), State of Palestine, Sri Lanka, Trinidad and Tobago, Togo, Tunisia, United States of America, Zimbabwe.
- New Work Item Proposals: 4
- TDs: 90
- Liaison Statements: 24 iLS and 7 oLS
- Registration: 100 participants

# Participation Statistics (by region and country)

<b>Africa: 25</b>	<b>Americas: 21</b>	<b>Arab States: 7</b>	<b>Asia &amp; Pacific: 23</b>	<b>CIS: 4</b>	<b>Europe: 9</b>	<b>Others: 11</b>
Benin: 1	Argentina: 1	Bahrain: 1	Afghanistan: 3	Russia: 4	France: 1	BDT: 3
Cameroon: 2	Brazil: 5	Egypt: 2	China: 2		Poland: 1	TSB: 8
Côte d'Ivoire: 2	Canada: 3	Jordan: 1	India: 6		Romania: 3	
Ghana: 1	Honduras: 1	Kuwait: 1	Japan: 8		Switzerland: 1	
Guinea: 2	Trinidad and Tobago: 4	Tunisia: 1	Korea (Rep. of): 2		United Kingdom: 3	
Kenya: 1	United States: 7	United Arab Emirates: 1	Malaysia: 1			
Mozambique: 1			Sri Lanka: 1			
Nigeria: 2						
Senegal: 5						
Sierra Leone: 1						
South Africa: 1						
Sudan: 3						
Togo: 1						
Zimbabwe: 2						

# Hot Topics

- OTT: OTT Taxation; Customer Protection and Redress Mechanisms related to OTTs; Guidelines for ITU-T D.262 (seeking TSB support for a consultant, in accordance with WTSA-16 Resolution 44, for the production of this guide, in view of the implementation of this Recommendation); OTT Bypass Technical Report
- Blockchain: Accounting & Billing aspects in IoT ecosystem and integrated approach to IoT using Blockchain; Application/use of Blockchain technology to fulfil the mandate of SG3 to effectively handle accounting, policy, and economic issues in Telecommunications/ICT domain
- Distributed Ledger Technology: Distributed registry technologies to improve management of the Universal Service Fund; DLT for Accounting/Settlement and Economic and Policy aspects of Distributed Ledger Technology
- Roaming Aspects of IoT and M2M
- MVNOs and 5G under the circumstances of developing network virtualisation
- Interoperability for Competition in Mobile Financial Services

# Meeting Output

- Approved (TAP) three ITU-T Recommendations:
  - Recommendation ITU-T D.266, *Enabling environment for voluntary commercial arrangements between telecommunications network operators and OTT providers* ([SG3-TD265/PLEN](#))
  - Recommendation ITU-T D.265, *Optimizing terrestrial cable utilization across multiple countries to boost regional and international connectivity* ([SG3-TD266-R1/PLEN](#))
  - Recommendation ITU-T D.267/X.1261, *Policy framework including principles for digital identity infrastructure* ([SG3-TD267/PLEN](#))
- Determined (TAP) one new draft ITU-T Recommendation:
  - Recommendation ITU-T D.1041 (D.Colocation), *Policy and methodological principles for determining colocation and access charges* ([SG3-TD268/PLEN](#))
  - Japan expressed its reservation on the determination of the Recommendation and requested to record its reservation in the meeting report.



# Meeting Output (continued)

- Agreed to initiate one new work item:
  - Technical Report on Accounting & Billing aspects in IoT ecosystem (TR\_AccountingIoT) under Q2/3.
- SG3 was informed of [SG3RG-AFR's decision to apply the approval process as per Section 9.2 of WTSA Resolution 1](#) on two new draft regional Recommendations from the series of “Recommendations applicable to the African Region (ITU-T D.600-D.699)”. Please see [SG3-TD245/PLEN](#) for full texts and more information.
- TSB to initiate TAP consultation for the two texts through the TSB Director among the member states of the regional group, once the next SG3RG-AFR meeting dates are confirmed.

# Meeting Output (continued)

- Agreed to send [Questionnaire on Dispute Settlement](#) via [TSB Circular 265](#). Deadline is 1 December 2020 and responses are to be discussed at the RGMs in January 2021.
- Agreed to establish [Correspondence Group on OTT Taxation](#): [cg-ott-taxation@lists.itu.int](mailto:cg-ott-taxation@lists.itu.int). The Convener is Mr. Fernando de Faria Siqueira (ANATEL, Brazil) and the Terms of Reference of this CG can be found in [SG3-TD270-R1/PLEN](#).
- Agreed to an [updated numbering plan for the ITU-T D-Series Recommendations](#), as outlined in [SG3-TD255/PLEN](#).

# WTSA-20 Preparations Highlights

- Proposed to keep SG3 as an independent study group due to its unique nature on economic and policy issues, with regards to restructuring of ITU-T study groups.
- Proposed to merge Question 1/3 and Q2/3; proposed to discontinue Question 5/3; and proposed to merge Question 6/3 and Q13/3.
- Agreed on 10 proposed Questions for new Study Period (next slide).
- No edits to General Areas of Study and Lead ITU-T Study Groups in Specific Areas of Study (WTSA Resolution 2).
- Suggested changes to Points of guidance to ITU-T study groups for the development of the post-2020 work programme (WTSA Resolution 2).
- Suggested changes to List of Recommendations under the responsibility of the respective ITU-T study groups and TSAG in the 2021-2024 study period (WTSA Resolution 2).
- All information was sent as an outgoing LS to TSAG meeting (21-25 September 2020). See [TSAG-TD899/GEN](#).

# WTSA-20 Preparations Highlights (Continued)

Question number	Question title	Status
A/3	Development of charging and accounting/settlement mechanisms for current and future international telecommunication/ICT services and networks	Merger of Question 1/3 and Question 2/3
B/3	Study of economic and policy factors relevant to the efficient provision of international telecommunication services	Continuation of Q3/3
C/3	Regional studies for the development of cost models together with related economic and policy issues	Continuation of Q4/3
D/3	International mobile roaming issues (including charging, accounting and settlement mechanisms and roaming at border areas)	Continuation of Q7/3
E/3	Economic aspects of alternative calling procedures in the context of international telecommunications/ICT services and networks	Continuation of Q8/3
F/3	Economic and policy aspects of the Internet, convergence (services or infrastructure) and OTTs in the context of international telecommunication services and networks	Continuation of Q9/3
G/3	Competition policy and relevant market definitions related to the economic aspects of international telecommunication services and networks	Continuation of Q10/3
H/3	Economic and policy aspects of big data and digital identity in international telecommunications services and networks	Continuation of Q11/3
I/3	Economic and policy issues pertaining to international telecommunication/ICT services and networks that enable Mobile Financial Services (MFS)	Continuation of Q12/3
J/3	International Internet and Fiber Cables connectivity including relevant aspects of Internet protocol (IP) peering, regional traffic exchange points, Fiber Cables optimization, cost of provision of services and impact of Internet protocol version 6 (IPv6) deployment	Merger of Question 6/3 and Question 13/3

**NOTE** - SG3 proposes to discontinue Question 5/3.

# Upcoming Meetings

- Rapporteur Group Meetings (RGMs) are planned for 18-22 January 2021. Interregnum Rapporteurs to be confirmed with 8 RGMs to take place during the week. Objectives of the RGMs can be found in [SG3-TD269/PLEN](#).
- Next SG3 meeting was planned for 16-25 March 2021. However, due to the change in dates for WTSA-20, the Management Team is now discussing on new meeting dates for 2021.
- SG3 Regional Group meetings are not yet planned for 2020 and 2021.