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WORLD TELECOMMUNICATION STANDARDIZATION ASSEMBLY

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>> CHAIR: May I please ask you to take your seat. We are ready to start this afternoon's plenary. Thank you.

Ladies and Gentlemen, would you please take your seats, we'd like to start now? Before we go on with the meeting, I'd like to check with the interpreters that they have all the channels ready and running have I think it's a bit difficult for me to switch between the languages here, but if all the interpreters confirm they are present and the channels are working? English, please?

>> INTERPRETER: Yes, good afternoon.

>> CHAIR: Arabic, please?

French, please? (checking other languages).

Do we have them all running? Okay, thank you. We'll come back to the plenary meeting. This is the second plenary. We have the agenda in front of us. We've shifted agenda items 15, 18, 19 and 20 to this plenary meeting. However, the order, as we indicated before the closing of the first plenary would depend upon the readiness of the documents. We've been informed that the documents for presentation for agenda item 18 is available now, so we'll start with agenda item No. 18, the report from the recommendations coming out from the Study Groups. If that's okay with you, we will go to agenda item 18, then we will go to the 15, the Director of the TSB and if that's all right with the floor, we'll start with agenda item 18. I see no objection, thank you.

So agenda item 18, approval of the draft ITU recommendations presented to the Assembly would start with 18 A, the report on the ITU recommendation, draft recommendation D.195. That's presented in document No. 36 in front of you. We would like the plenary to approve the document. If you have no questions or clarifications from the floor. Please keep in mind the extensive work has been carried out in these study groups throughout the study period and the consensus reached in the study groups to present this work to the plenary. We feel responsible that we need to look at the excellent work that's been conducted so far. And as an appreciation from our side, we approve the recommendations in the Assembly with the aim that these recommendations would only serve the industries and the societies and the markets that are going to be adopting it.

So with that in mind, I would appreciate if the same spirit of cooperation commitment and dedication that was presented in the Study Groups would be carried over to the Assembly. And we move quickly on the adoption of these draft recommendations. And we conclude our discussions in this plenary.

So I see no comments required nor no clarifications needed on the draft recommendation 195. Should we consider this approved by the plenary? I see no further comments. Thank you very much. Document No. 36 for draft recommendation 195 is approved. Thank you. (gavel).

Next item we move to recommendation No. Y.2770, presented in document No. 30 and 60, rev 1. Do we have any comments on this recommendation? Now, I need to highlight that there's been extensive discussion on this document. And great efforts have been made in order to reach a common understanding and consensus between the parties. I've been present and part of the discussion. And I sincerely appreciate the work that has been carried out. All the participants of discussion were there with the very good spirit of cooperation and compromise and they've reached a very good compromise.

I would like to call upon Mr. Chaesub Lee to enlighten us with the comments.

>> CHAESUB LEE: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. As you said during the lunch break, according to the spirit of collaboration, we have ex continued our extensive collaboration with interested parties. So we reached some conclusions with the following, if you allow me, I would like to introduce these agreements.

That we agreed to points. First one is add following sentence at the end of fourth paragraph in the scope section. The fourth paragraph in the scope section we add following sentence, I'll read off slowly. Then I'll read out a little bit more carefully.

"The mechanism described in this ITU recommendation may not be aptly covered to the international correspondence in other to insure the secrecy and the sovereign national legal requirements placed upon telecommunications, and ITU Constitution and convention."

This is what we agreed to add to this sentence. Let me repeat again.

The fourth paragraph in the scope section, we add, "the mechanism described in this ITU recommendation may not be aptly covered to the international correspondence in order to insure the secrecy and the sovereign national level requirements placed upon telecommunications, and ITU Constitution and convention."

That's the first agreement.

The second agreement, we agreed remove all appendixes from this document, remove all appendixes from this document. Mr. Chairman, our results reached during the lunch break for your further consideration. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

>> CHAIR: Thank you, Mr. Lee. As mentioned earlier, we've had an extensive amount of discussion on this specific item. And apparently all the consent parties were present with Mr. Lee drafting this very delicate text as a compromise. And we would like the Assembly to approve the recommendations with as proposed as dictated by Mr. Lee as well as the second proposal which was the removal of all the appendixes to the document. Could we please approve the recommendation with these modifications and the removal of the appendixes and consider documents approved? I see no request from the floor. So thank you very much. The document is approved with the text and the removal of the appendices. Thank you very much. (gavel).

Next agenda item we move to set of recommendations presented by Study Group 15. We start with item No. 1 of C. That's the recommendation No. G.9901 presented in Document No. 48. Do we have any comments or clarifications on this document, please? I see no requests ‑‑ yes, Russian Federation, please?

>> RUSSIAN FEDERATION: Thank you, Chairman. Chairman, it seems to us that the questions related to this recommendation are issues that relate to the radio sector, also. And first and foremost that would relate to the possibility of obtaining interference, especially with reference to broadcasting services. We therefore think that before we approve this recommendation, it would be appropriate for us to undertake appropriate consultation with the radio sector; and if we reach agreement with them, we could then move to approving this recommendation. But at this stage we have some fears about this, and we would like to clarify a number of matters and then proceed to approval. Thank you.

>> CHAIR: Thank you, Russia. May we call the Chairman of Study Group 15 to come, please?

>> YOICHI MAEDA: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I'd like to clarify the question made by Russia. And ITU‑T draft recommendation D.991 in December 2012 and SG 15 meeting decided to submit this draft recommendation for approval at the WTSA in order to meet the market demand in a timely manner.

The text of the ITU‑T D.991 is technically very stable and constituting editorial, just we made a remapping of existing approved contents containing the ITU‑T 9 G.995 doc. And there is no additional technical materials. G.9995 has already been reviewed by the ITU‑R and through the TAP procedure. And in our proposal, G.9901 just remapping of the contents to include all the radio aspect as a separate recommendation. So regarding the consent by the ITU‑R, we have already had the difference or the comment. And that is now stable text in G.9955. So that is my view and additional explanation.

And the consultation with ITU ‑‑ so my conclusion is the consultation with ITU‑R has already been done and agreed. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

>> CHAIR: Thank you for the clarification. Russia, is the response clear for you?

>> RUSSIAN FEDERATION: Thank you, Chairman. Chairman, well, so far as we know or on the basis of what we know, we do not yet have certainty about this. And we're not yet sure that on the part of the broadcasting services there might not be some claims about this. In fact, I've heard something rather different. So perhaps ‑‑ well I don't know if anyone else has any doubts about this. Perhaps we could just take a short break, a little bit of time out to get a response from the radio sector. And if they have no problems, we won't have any problems. But I just would like to hear from the radio sector because we still have questions so far as I know. Maybe other colleagues have different opinions about this.

>> CHAIR: Please?

>> MALCOLM JOHNSON: Thank you, Chairman. I'd just like to emphasize that we had very good collaboration in the development of this standard with our colleagues in the radio bureau. And also colleagues in the ITU‑R study groups to get agreement on this. And we worked very closely with them because there was concern from the broadcasters that PRT equipment could cause and would cause interference to broadcast receivers in the home. And so that was why we worked very closely together with our colleagues in ITU‑R to get this standard agreed.

It's important that we do get this agreed quickly because we need to get equipment on the market meeting this standard, which does satisfy the concerns of the broadcasters because there is competing equipment currently on the market which doesn't satisfy the concerns of the broadcasters. And those companies that wish to produce equipment to this standard are at a competitive disadvantage until we get this standard adopted. So there is a marketplace battle going on. And I think we can secret consultation and allow Russian Federation to secret consultation with its colleagues from the radio sector, but I'd just like to make the point that we did make every effort to address the concerns of the broadcasters. And that there is other equipment not meeting ITU standard on the market which does cause this problem. Thank you, Chairman.

>> CHAIR: Thank you, Mr. Johnson.

Can I ask Russia if the explanation from the Director does satisfy your concerns, please?

>> RUSSIAN FEDERATION: Thank you. Thank you, Chairman. Chairman, of course we entirely trust Mr. Johnson. He himself is a radio specialist. And his assertion that everything has been agreed certainly dispels all of our doubts, thank you.

>> CHAIR: Thank you, Russian Federation. We have two requests from the floor from Armenia and Iran. Do you still need the floor? Yes, please.

>> ARMENIA: Thank you, Chairman. Chairman, the question of the way that these PLT systems interact with broadcasting systems is not new. And of course it's something we have to pay great attention to. As has been explained by the Director of the TSB, we have work that is going ahead in this area and it seems to me that if it were possible ‑‑ and I understand that there would be an opportunity for this ‑‑ if it were possible, I would suggest that we have a little time, that we take a little time to look at our concerns and to dispel our doubts.

Of course I fully endorse what has been said by preceding speakers, but if we have time for ‑‑ just a little time to be given to us, then perhaps we could wait until final approval is given at the next plenary. Could we have from now to the next plenary to have approval?

>> CHAIR: Do you still need the floor? Iran, please?

>> IRAN: Thank you, Chairman. Good afternoon. Congratulations to your election. Chairman, this issue was extensively discussed between ITU‑R and ITU‑T. The Chairman of the Study Group 1 of ITU‑R and Chairman of Study Group 15 of ITU‑T during the two years they collaborated with each other and tried to remove all of the anxiety and doubt of the ITU‑R. And the result of this discussion is that this recommendation.

However, the ITU Chairman is a contribution‑driven. We approve this recommendation. Should there be any difficult in future, colleagues could present contributions. And it is always possible to review what you have done, already agreed or whatever they have agreed. Therefore I think that this collaboration is at the stage that allow the approval of these recommendations, thank you.

>> CHAIR: Thank you. It is very good input from you. Very good suggestion. I would call for Mr. Maeda to give us the discussion that he had with the relevant study groups he had with the ITU‑R. Please give us the confidence again that all the matters have been really cleared out between the two 11 study groups between ITU and ITU‑R.

>> YOICHI MAEDA: Thank you, Chairman. Yes, as a Chairman, I can assure that Russia and Armenia that there is no problem from broadcaster from ITU‑T and all consultation with ITU‑R has been agreed.

So as advice from Iran, his information is very good and appropriate. So I can assure that the stability of the recommendation. Thank you very much.

>> CHAIR: Thank you, Mr. Maeda. With that in mind, can I ask the Plenary to approve the document with the recommendations given of Study Group 15? Armenia, would you be comfortable with that? Mic is off.

>> ARMENIA: Thank you, Chairman. Chairman, of course we can agree to this because generally we do not have a chance to go into this in depth and going into the whole information with any detail. But as has been said by previous speakers, this is a living organism, so to speak. It is something that can always be improved. But certainly we can agree to the approach you have suggested at this date, thank you.

>> CHAIR: Thank you. Thank you for understanding. Thank you. So with that, can we declare the document concerning the ITU recommendation 9901 draft recommendation 9901 is approved at the plenary? Thank you very much. The document is approved.

(gavel).

Next on our agenda is the two draft recommendations. We'd like to take them together. That's No. 2 and 3. ITU‑T recommendations G.8113.1 and G.8113.2. Now, we all know that there's been a great deal of approval and support for these two recommendations. They have been extensively discussed. And there was a consensus within Study Group 15 that they would be followed as a package to the Assembly for approval.

I would like to seek the Assembly's approval to the text of these recommendations and keep in mind the excellent work that the Study Group 15 has conducted so far and the efforts made to present the documents as they are in the final stage. Could we seek the approval of the Assembly on these two recommendations, please? Are there any comments? I see none. Thank you very much for your cooperation. The documents related to ITU‑T recommendations G.8113.1 and G.8113.2 are approved. Thank you.

(gavel).

Mr. Maeda, you have the floor, please?

>> YOICHI MAEDA: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I'd like to add my comment to the approval of the last two recommendations. The development of these two draft recommendations has been a result of long and controversial discussion. And our achievement of agreement is very fruitful outcome with collaboration, especially with ITU‑F. So I'd like to express great thanks to all the experts and contribute to expert. And also we have confirmed commitment from the ITU‑F to provide a code point for this application as soon as this G.8113.1 is approved.

So as SG 15 Chairman, I'd like to send a liaison to inform this good approval to ITU‑F and I am looking forward to receive the good result by the end of this WTSA plenary. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

>> CHAIR: Thank you, Mr. Maeda. I believe that your work conducted in Study Group 15 is a pure reflection of the spirit within ITU of cooperation, compromises and joint work to reach the common objective for all of us. Your work of the Study Group 15 is much appreciated and your colleagues who participated actively.

So with that we move to the last set of the last item on the ‑‑ under Item C, which is the ITU‑T draft recommendation G.9980. The document is presented in recommendation is presented in document No. 41 in front of you. Do you have any comments on the document, please? Germany, please?

>> GERMANY: We would like to ask for some additional time to discuss the matter with some other parties and internally. And therefore we'd ask to move this point, agenda point to the Friday session. It's not that we don't want to ‑‑ block going forward, but we just need some additional time, thank you.

>> CHAIR: Thank you, Germany. We've got a proposal from Germany to postpone the discussion on document 41 to the plenary session on Friday. Would anyone have any comments on this proposal? Japan, please?

>> YOICHI MAEDA: This is SG15 Chairman again. And this G.990 is consented in October 2010 and determined in February 2011. And following the failed attempt to approve in February 2011 and December 2011 respectively by the intervention made by the Germany, Chairman, we decided to submit this draft recommendation for approval to this WTSA12. This decision was endorsed by the SG 15 meeting in December 2012, including German administration. So that is a fact that I hope this recommendation will be approved as soon as possible and market requests to see this good fruitful agreement, I hope. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

>> CHAIR: Thank you, Japan. Sweden, please, you have the floor?

>> SWEDEN: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Taking into account that there may be a need for some further discussions on the issue, we support German proposal to defer the discussion until the next plenary meeting.

>> CHAIR: Thank you, Sweden. We are aware that there has been discussions offline on all the set of recommendations, and we do understand the need for further discussion of this specific one.

So with your permission, the plenary, we would defer the discussion on document 41 to the next plenary, which would be on Friday. And we can move on to the next agenda item if there is no issue with the shifting? I see none. Thank you very much for your understanding.

So we finished with No. 18. We can move now to agenda item No. 15, the report on the Director of TSB. The floor is yours.

>> MALCOLM JOHNSON: Thank you, Chairman. Two documents related to this agenda item, C27 is the Director's Report, which is a rather lengthy document, 53 pages. So what we're suggesting is that we present you with a PowerPoint presentation of this document, which will summarize some of the main points in it. It's a very detailed document. And I'll leave you to look at the detail later. The other document is C28, which is the action plan for the sector.

This looks at all the resolutions that were adopted at the WTSA '08 and looks at what ITU‑T has achieved in relation to each of those resolutions. It's a living document. We keep updating it to show the progress made in relation to all those resolutions, which of course will be considered during this Assembly. And following this Assembly, we will revise this action plan.

So turning to the PowerPoint presentation on the director's report, I'm very pleased to say that our membership is on the rise again. And, in fact, last year in 2011, we saw 50 percent increase compared to the previous year. And that trend seems to be continuing. This year we had 21 new members in the first five months of the year. So that this is showing a net financial gain on the income from the sector members and associates in the ITU‑T.

The academic membership is also, of course, something that we're very proud of. Since that was introduced at the beginning of last year, we've seen 48 universities now members of ITU and 34 of those in the ITU‑T.

In fact, just last week, we had two more apply to become members. So we have 36 academic members in ITU‑T. And they range from universities similar to Tokyo University, to the most recent member, which is Kartung University and is very widespread across the world. So we're very pleased to see that these delegates are now actively participating in our work.

Turning to the work of Study Group 15 in particular and the work that Study Group 15 does on the broadband standards in particular, all the fiberoptic network standards are developed in ITU‑T. And of course these standards provide the backbone for the whole telecommunications network and in particular also all the traffic on the Internet. In fact, 95 percent of international traffic goes over the fibre networks produced. And those rely, of course, very much on the standards produced in Study Group 15.

We're also doing a lot of work on the smartphones network support, the back phone for smartphones. And this was, in fact, something that we discussed in the CTO group on Sunday where it was recommendation from the CTOs to do more work in ITU‑T on smartphone security.

Of course the transport network needs to be very resilient, and again we're producing a lot of standards to insure that there is protection in the switching in the case of link failures. And in particular, we have now a focus group looking at the resilience of networks.

Smart grid is a new activity in ITU‑T. And of course this has great potential for reducing energy consumption and contributing to reducing greenhouse gas emissions. It's been estimated that smart grids can reduce greenhouse gas emissions by up to 18 percent in the U.S. by 2030. So Study Group 15 has been developing a family of standards to enable cost‑effective smart grid applications such as smart metering and also advanced recharging of electric vehicles.

We're also looking to contribute to the efforts to reduce energy consumption in all infrastructure, not just the communications infrastructure.

Looking at broadband in particular, ITU‑T connects an estimated 50 million broadband customers, relying on ITU‑T standards. And a lot of work, again, is going on in Study Group 15 to reduce the reliance on fibre so that question, in fact, provide broadband access to homes using the existing copper wires. And G dot.fast standard estimates to provide up to 1 gigabytes per second using existing copper lines.

As you know, we were fortunate to be awarded the prime time Emmy for video codec H264. And I'm pleased to say that we're now working on an improvement of H264. So we're very much looking forward to moving ahead next time and receiving an Oscar for this standard.

I had the pleasure of receiving the prime time Emmy in Hollywood on behalf of ITU, ISO and IEC in 2008. And we now have a joint team also at ISO and IEC to working on a high efficiency video codec, which should increase the compression of H264 by 50 percent.

Cloud computing is another major effort and way in ITU‑T. ITU‑T is working to connect clouds. One third of ‑‑ it's estimated that one third of total data centre traffic will be cloud traffic by 2015. And our work in this area has, in fact, resulted in many new members joining ITU‑T. In particular we're looking at insuring interoperability between different cloud services so that consumers can have the possibility to move to different cloud providers. And of course security is also a major concern. We have a joint coordination activity on cloud computing.

Internet of Things is another major activity in ITU‑T looking at services such as e‑health, logistics, transportation. It's estimated that by 2020 there will be 50 billion devices connected. So we have a lot of work in this area. We have the ITU global standards initiative on Internet of Things. We also have a joint coordination activity on Internet of Things because this subject, of course, covers many study groups in ITU‑T. We need to make sure that they're all well coordinated.

And more recently, we have the focus group on M2M, which is looking specifically at the support to e‑health applications and in which we're working closely with the World Health Organization and Continua Health Alliance. This, of course, will be the subject of a side event later this week.

For future networks, a lot of work is going on in Study Group 13 to look at ways of improving our NGN standards and also looking into the future to a future generation of telecommunications networks standards. And in particular, another item which was discussed in the CTO group on Sunday was the need for ITU to do more on Software Defined Networking. This is a new subject which is going to have major implications in the future and something that ITU needs to address in much more greater detail than currently.

As you know, we produced a standard on a universal mobile phone Charger in Study Group 5. This was presented first in 2009. It was further improved in 2011 so that the end connector is specified as a micro‑USB. As a detachable lead. And this Charger uses virtually no energy once the mobile phone is detached, even if it's left plugged in. It uses virtually no energy. It's been calculated that now that we ‑‑ if these devices were used throughout for all mobile phones, then there would be a saving of 13.6 million tons of CO2 per year and also since the ‑‑ all the major vendors have agreed to produce charges to this standard, they will be sold separately from mobile phones in the future. And that is estimated to save 82,000 tons of e‑waste.

ITU‑T Study Group 5 has gone further in this area recently with the consent of a new recommendation which provides a standard for a universal power adapter for ICT stationary devices, such as modems, set‑top boxes, home networking equipment and fixed telephones. And that again is a very high energy efficient standard and will also contribute to not only reducing e‑waste but reducing greenhouse gas emissions.

In fact, a lot of work has been done since the last Assembly in the area of environment. Of course. Study Group 5 has now been given the lead in this area. The name was changed to Environment and Climate Change. And a lot of work has been done, especially in the area of methodologies to assess the impact of the ICT sector.

The methodology has been agreed so that it's possible to calculate a greenhouse gas emissions from the ICT sector. And we've worked very closely with the United Nations conference on climate change. So we hope that this methodology will be used in the future to help find some funding from the technology transfer mechanism in the UN FCCC to enable ICT broadband in particular and other projects to be implemented in developing countries in return for reduction of green house gas emissions.

We've also in Study Group 5 developed a best practice for data centres. And we also have a series of reports which are available for downloading from the ITU website and we do have some copies available that cover a number of environmental areas that were published for the Green Standards Week, which was held in Paris in September. We will have another Green Standards Week next year in Madrid. And would like to invite everyone to take part in that event. I'm sure it's going to be equally interesting event.

As you may know, we have a fully networked car event every year at the Geneva Motor Show. We do that together with ISO and IEC under the umbrella of the World Standards Cooperation. And that's generated a lot of interest, especially from the motor manufacturers. We've recently created a new collaboration on intelligent transport systems to involve all the various standards bodies and motor manufacturers in the work of developing globally harmonized set of ITS communications standards. BMW hosted the most recent meeting. Toyota is very active in the group. And we're looking to have further car manufacturers joining the group in the subsequent meetings.

We're also looking at driver distraction. And we have a focus group on quality of service in vehicle voice services.

So we have a growing range of standards. The range of ITU‑T's standards have developed considerably from pure technology standards to cover service definitions, set‑top boxes, support services, digital signage. And of course we're placing much more emphasis now on conformance testing, including for IPTV.

Security continues to be one of the major activities of ITU‑T, especially in Study Group 17. The security Study Group. And Study Group 17 has recently taken on board efforts to look at technical ways of protecting children online. That has now been looked at in another joint coordination activity on child online protection. And Study Group 17 is doing a lot of work on authentication and identity management. That's attracting the financial sector. We have Bank of America actively participating in that work.

We also have ITU‑T's X1200 series of recommendations on spam, countering spam. And these describe the technologies and technical strategies, technical frameworks to counter spam.

We also have ITU‑T's cyber‑security information exchange, which we call Cybex. And this helps to ensure a rapid, coordinated response to cyber threats. Cybex is a collection of best‑of‑breed standards both from government agencies and industry.

As the Honorable Minister from Ghana mentioned this morning, conformity interoperability is a major project which was initiated in Johannesburg, so we've done a lot of work in this area since then. We have an action plan in this area which was endorsed by the Plenary Potentiary Conference in 2010. They will be reviewed during this Assembly.

And the action, the programme covers four pillars. So we have developed a conformity database. It's still to be finalized, still some issues to be addressed.

We also have started conducting a series of interoperability events. These have proved to be very successful. We've had many companies participating in these and even paying to cover the costs of organising these events.

Together with the BDT, we're working on capacity building and on also helping establish test centres in the regions. These test centres, of course, are very expensive to establish. So the idea is to develop test centres which can provide service to a number of countries in the region.

And we're working very closely with the regional organizations to identify the location for these test centres. A number of countries are willing to establish these test centres.

And I would just like to say while Director of the BDT is sitting next to me, that this is one area of a number of areas where we have excellent collaboration between TSB and BDT in taking forward this programme. And thank you very much.

Numbering, of course, is a historic area of work for ITU‑T going back to the origins of ITU. And all the country codes are assigned by ITU. And last year, in fact, we were able to issue a new country code. That was for South Sudan, 211. I know that country was very appreciative of us issuing that code. Almost immediately, their independence was recognized by the UN.

We also have done a lot of work to counter the misuse of numbering resources. And we know that this is going to be one of the issues to be addressed at the World Conference on Telecommunications which follows the WTSA.

Also, there's a new international numbering resources database that TSB has launched where ITU members can see the full suite of ITU‑T E.212 numbering resources, including the mobile country codes and including the mobile network codes.

We've also looked at accounting. And I'm sure the Study Group 3 Chairman will be speaking more about this, but we have a new supplement to ITU‑T recommendation D.50 to look at the measurement of IP traffic flows. So this recommendation can be used by developing countries as a tool to help negotiate international Internet connectivity charges.

Also, of course, a lot of work has been done on looking at international roaming. And a new recommendation has been adopted to empower consumers with the information necessary to choose roaming charges and to encourage operators to lower their tariffs for roaming. This agreement is the first international agreement on ways to reduce roaming costs and also will be a subject of discussion at the WCIT.

WTSA '08 adopted the resolution 66 which formalized the technology watch function in the TSB. So the Technology Watch Reports survey new technologies and look for potential new areas for standardization activities in ITU‑T. These have, in fact, kicked off a number of new activities in the sector since they were introduced. We have quite a few topics. These reports are all available on the website.

Some of the ones highlighted here: Cloud privacy, e‑health, Smart Water. We, in fact, could mention that in the first quarter of next year we will have the work first ITU workshop on Smart Water management kindly hosted by Egypt. We also have a Technology Watch Report on gaming, driver distraction, e‑learning. And, in fact, we have now 22 Technology Watch Reports on the website.

Kaleidoscope. Kaleidoscope is the academic conference that we initiated in 2008. So while we've had four of these events since 2008, the first one was in Geneva, then Argentina, then India and the last one was at Cape Town University in South Africa. So the next event will be held in Japan at Kyoto University and it will address a different theme. Each Kaleidoscope conference addresses a different theme. Next year it will be Building Sustainable Communities, which was decided as a theme that would be appropriate to have in Japan following the great East Japan earthquake.

As you may know, we had a high‑level round table in Geneva recently on the 10th of October to address the issue of what some call "patent war" currently taking place. There's a substantial increase in standardization patent litigation. And we were able to draw together all the key players to sit around a table. We reconvened.

[Silence.]

‑‑ interpretation to all the study groups now. And for the regional groups we are always trying to show we have interpretation and translation in the languages used in the region.

We've placed a lot more effort on producing handbooks. We rely on the experts in the study groups to produce these handbooks. And they're very willing to do so. Of course they often need to do it in their own time. So we provide some financial compensation for that. So we've managed to produce a number of new handbooks and also provide some tutorials and work shops based on these handbooks and delivered by the experts who actually wrote the handbooks.

So we have a number of new handbooks coming along. You see some of them listed here. But we also have handbooks planned for next year. And these include a manual on quality of service for African countries, handbook on mobility management, a handbook on production of overvoltage protection guidance and also migration scenarios for legacy networks to NGN.

Those of you that were in Johannesburg will recall that we had a side event on accessibility. And we had a demonstration from Mr. Del Monty who was shown here who was paralyzed in a work accident from his neck down and showed in front of the whole main plenary room how he was able to set up a link with his daughter back in Italy and converse with her and illustrated how he can control everything in his home through the use of eye contact with his laptop.

So we've done a lot of work on accessibility since Johannesburg. We have a checklist now for all the study groups to use when they start work on a new standard. They have to make sure that the standard will meet all the accessibility requirements. And also we provide the possibility to have persons with disabilities participating in our work. It's very important, especially when they're looking at standards on accessibility.

So we provide sign language to some of the meetings. We provide captioning to many meetings. And we also provide remote access to the meetings for disabled participants that are unable to travel.

We have a joint coordination activity on accessibility and human factors. And we also have a new focus group on audiovisual media accessibility, which is doing a lot of work, good work in this area.

Returning to e‑health, as we all know, we discussed this at the global standards symposium yesterday. We have an aging population. We have a large percentage of persons with disabilities. In fact, it's estimated that we have 1 in 7 persons in the world either age‑related or suffering from a disability. So we're doing a lot of work in this area of helping connect the medics.

We have worked with the WHO. The WHO, actually, came along to us and said their membership has noticed a lot of problems with the lack of interoperability of e‑health services because they're using proprietary products and standards. And so that we have started a work, a joint work with WHO in this area. We had a workshop in April this year which led to the adoption of an action plan between the two organizations. And the first standard in a suite of standards supporting communication between medal centres and patients was published last year.

And of course the machine‑to‑machine focus group is specifically looking at e‑health.

As was evidenced in the GSS yesterday and before that in the ‑‑ ITU has long taken a lead for offering a platform for the critical dialogue necessary to insure good collaboration between ITU and other standards bodies. We now have a formal relationship between ITU and 40 other organizations. And we work very closely with ISO and IEC in the world standards cooperation and with all the leading standards bodies in the global standards collaboration, both of which meet annually.

And we have recently signed an MOU with TTA, TTC, CCSA in Japan, Korea and China. And this year we signed an MOU with ETSI. And also with the European Patent Office.

In the WSC, we've agreed a three‑year rolling plan.

All this work has been achieved thanks largely to the excellent leadership that we have in the study groups and in the TSAG. And I'd like to take this opportunity to thank all the leadership of the ITU‑T for the excellent work that they've led us to over the last four years. Thank you very much, Chairman.

[Applause.]

>> CHAIR: Thank you, Mr. Johnson, for this very informative presentation. It's useful sometimes to go back and see somewhat of the achievements because we tend to get driven by our daily work and our focused work on a daily basis where we forget the bigger picture that we see as a result of our work. It's excellent presentation. We've seen the result of the Study Groups into the daily life of individuals in our society and societies and communities, and it's a very clear message that we do develop standards because we want to impact the human beings' life not because we simply can, not simply because we can develop standards. We develop them because there is a need for the standards within the communities, within the societies that we live in.

And to see a result in a very visual way just as presented by Mr. Johnson makes us feel more responsible towards what we did so far and gives us more commitment towards the future. So thank you very much for this presentation. It's very, very informative.

We've got two requests from the floor. We'll start with Sudan, please. You have the floor.

Sudan, you don't need the floor anymore? Okay. We have a request from ‑‑

>> One moment for the floor.

>> CHAIR: Thank you very much. Iran, you have the floor, please.

>> IRAN: Thank you very much, Mr. Chairman. We wish to express our sincere gratitude and appreciation to Malcolm Johnson, Director of the TSB. Chairman, Malcolm is a real custodian to a public international trust. From the time that he take up the work in ITU‑T, he did first an internal review of everything, reorganized the TSB to be a more efficient, effective and, in fact, contribute to the productivity of the staff of the ITU‑T. He created an atmosphere of friendship inside the ITU‑T. His office is open to everybody, from the staff and from the membership.

Externally, Malcolm Johnson is a real democrat person. He is actually a diplomat. He has good relations with almost everybody. He listens to everybody. He takes into account all suggestions. And he tries to use them to the benefit of the Union.

Mr. Johnson mentioned that a number of the membership has been increased. Yes. He is dealing with one of the difficult sectors because although the ITU is intergovernmental organisation, but dealing with the nongovernmental sector, they have expectations different from the governmental sector. And Malcolm and his team with the Study Groups and all people collaborating with him, they did reply, to the extent practicable, to these requirements.

Chairman, the ITU‑T, which is mostly based on the contributions of the sector members, universities, research centres and peoples from the private sectors, they need to increase the speed of the work; and Malcolm Johnson, in fact, together with all the Study Groups, put effort to this dynamism in order to meet the requirements of the sector members that they need things to be done quickly.

Your work, Mr. Chairman, today, in approving the recommendation is one of those replies to the membership that they need to have recommendations in order to go ahead with the standards.

Malcolm Johnson is very effective Director and he is ‑‑ deserves appreciation. And, Chairman, although after his very comprehensive, detailed, organized and disciplined report with all of those slides that he showed very nicely deserves, Mr. Chairman, the second round of applause to what he has done.

[Applause.]

>> CHAIR: Thank you, Iran. Mr. Johnson?

>> MALCOLM JOHNSON: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. And I'd like to thank Mr. Aristae for those very kind words. And I must say that I'm very fortunate to have wonderful staff in the TSB. Excellent staff. Although it's a very small Bureau, we only have 67 staff in the TSB and a limited budget, we do make a lot of effort, I believe. And everyone in the Bureau puts a lot of effort into making sure that we do meet the expectations of our membership. We have very skilled people and very dedicated people.

And so I think the very kind words from Mr. Aristae not only reflect on me but also all the staff of the TSB. Thank you very much, Mr. Aristae.

>> CHAIR: Thank you, Mr. Johnson. We've taken six more minutes from our dedicated time, so we better wrap up and finish for the second plenary meeting.

If there are no further requests from the floor, I would like to close this meeting for a coffee break and then resume again at 15 minutes to 4:00 p.m. So we just got five more extra minutes. That's 4:20 p.m. So please resume at 4:20 p.m. We will start with Study Group chairman and any other business. Thank you very much. Meeting is adjourned.

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