

WORLD TELECOMMUNICATION STANDARDIZATION
ASSEMBLY

New Delhi, 15-24 October 2024

**Resolution 18 – Strengthening coordination
and cooperation among the three ITU Sectors
on matters of mutual interest**



FOREWORD

The International Telecommunication Union (ITU) is the United Nations specialized agency in the field of telecommunications, and information and communication technologies (ICTs). The ITU Telecommunication Standardization Sector (ITU-T) is a permanent organ of ITU. ITU-T is responsible for studying technical, operating and tariff questions and issuing Recommendations on them with a view to standardizing telecommunications on a worldwide basis.

The World Telecommunication Standardization Assembly (WTSA), which meets every four years, establishes the topics for study by the ITU-T study groups which, in turn, produce Recommendations on these topics.

The approval of ITU-T Recommendations is covered by the procedure laid down in WTSA Resolution 1.

In some areas of information technology which fall within ITU-T's purview, the necessary standards are prepared on a collaborative basis with ISO and IEC.

RESOLUTION 18 (Rev. New Delhi, 2024)¹

Strengthening coordination and cooperation among the three ITU Sectors on matters of mutual interest

*(Helsinki, 1993; Geneva, 1996; Montreal, 2000; Florianópolis, 2004;
Johannesburg, 2008; Dubai, 2012; Hammamet, 2016; Geneva, 2022; New Delhi, 2024)*

The World Telecommunication Standardization Assembly (New Delhi, 2024),

recalling

- a) that the responsibilities of the ITU Radiocommunication (ITU-R), Telecommunication Standardization (ITU-T) and Telecommunication Development (ITU-D) Sectors are enshrined in the ITU Constitution and Convention, in particular No. 119 of the Constitution and Nos. 151 to 154 (relating to ITU-R), No. 193 (relating to ITU-T), Nos. 211 and 214 (relating to ITU-D) and No. 215 of the Convention;
- b) Resolution 191 (Rev. Bucharest, 2022) of the Plenipotentiary Conference, on strategy for the coordination of efforts among the three Sectors of the Union;
- c) Resolution ITU-R 75 (Dubai, 2023) of the Radiocommunication Assembly, on strengthening coordination and cooperation among the three ITU Sectors on matters of mutual interest;
- d) Resolution 59 (Rev. Kigali, 2022) of the World Telecommunication Development Conference (WTDC), on strengthening coordination and cooperation among the three ITU Sectors on matters of mutual interest;
- e) Resolution 44 (Rev. New Delhi, 2024) of this assembly, on bridging the standardization gap between developing² and developed countries;
- f) Resolution 5 (Rev. Kigali, 2022) of WTDC, on enhanced participation by developing countries in the activities of the Union,

considering

- a) that a basic principle for cooperation and collaboration among ITU-R, ITU-T and ITU-D is the need to avoid duplication of activities of the Sectors, and to ensure that work is undertaken efficiently and effectively, respecting the specific functions defined in the Constitution and Convention for each Sector;
- b) that there are a growing number of issues of mutual interest and concern to all Sectors, in accordance with Resolution 191 (Rev. Bucharest, 2022);

¹ This resolution should also be brought to the attention of the ITU Radiocommunication and Telecommunication Development Sectors.

² These include the least developed countries, small island developing states, landlocked developing countries and countries with economies in transition.

c) that the Inter-Sector Coordination Group on issues of mutual interest (ISCG), which is composed of representatives from the three advisory groups, works to identify subjects of common interest and mechanisms to enhance collaboration and cooperation among the Sectors and the General Secretariat, and considers reports from the Directors of the Bureaux and the Inter-Sectoral Coordination Task Force (ISC-TF) on options for improving cooperation and coordination within the secretariat,

recognizing

a) that there is a need to improve the participation of developing countries in the work of ITU, as outlined in Resolution 5 (Rev. Kigali, 2022);

b) that one such mechanism – the Inter-Sectoral Emergency Communications Team – has been established to ensure close collaboration within the Union as a whole, as well as with interested entities and organizations outside ITU, on this key priority issue for the Union;

c) that all the advisory groups are collaborating in the implementation of Resolution 123 (Rev. Bucharest, 2022) of the Plenipotentiary Conference, on bridging the standardization gap between developing and developed countries;

d) that interaction and coordination in the joint holding of seminars, workshops, forums, symposia and so forth have yielded positive results in terms of saving financial and human resources;

e) that electronic remote participation will reduce travel costs and facilitate wider participation of developing countries in the work of ITU-T meetings that require their attendance,

taking into account

a) the expanding sphere of joint studies between the three Sectors and the need for coordination and cooperation among them in this regard;

b) the growing number of issues of mutual interest and concern to the three Sectors,

noting

that Resolution ITU-R 75 (Dubai, 2023) provides for mechanisms for ongoing review of the allocation of work and cooperation between ITU-R and ITU-T,

resolves

1 that the Radiocommunication Advisory Group (RAG), the Telecommunication Standardization Advisory Group (TSAG) and the Telecommunication Development Advisory Group (TDAG), meeting jointly as necessary, shall continue the review of new and existing work and its distribution among ITU-R, ITU-T and ITU-D, for approval by Member States in accordance with the procedures laid down for the approval of new and/or revised Questions, as provided for by Resolution 191 (Rev. Bucharest, 2022);

- 2 that, if considerable responsibilities in any two or all Sectors in a particular subject are identified:
- i) the procedure given in Annex A to this resolution should be applied; or
 - ii) the matter should be studied by relevant study groups of the Sectors involved, with appropriate coordination and matching of relevant Question topics of interest to the study groups in ITU-T, ITU-D and ITU-R (see Annexes B and C to this resolution); or
 - iii) a joint meeting may be arranged by study groups and/or the Directors of the Bureaux;

3 to continue facilitating the participation of developing countries through extensive use of remote participation by electronic means, as appropriate, at meetings of ITU-T study groups, working parties and task groups;

4 to cooperate with the Director of the Telecommunication Development Bureau (BDT) in enhancing the ability of the ITU regional and area offices to provide support for study group activities, as well as the necessary expertise, in order to strengthen cooperation and coordination with the relevant regional organizations and to facilitate the participation of all Member States and Sector Members in the activities of ITU-T;

5 that the Director of the Telecommunication Standardization Bureau (TSB) shall cooperate with the Directors of the other two Bureaux on activities relating to the development and updating of handbooks and reports with the view to avoiding duplication of effort, and on the implementation of outcomes of ITU-T activities,

invites

1 TSAG, RAG and TDAG to continue to assist ISCG in the identification of subjects of mutual interest to the three Sectors and mechanisms to enhance their cooperation and collaboration;

2 the Directors of the Radiocommunication Bureau, TSB and BDT and ISC-TF to report to ISCG and the respective Sector advisory groups on options for improving cooperation at the secretariat level to ensure that close coordination is maximized,

instructs

1 the ITU-T study groups to continue cooperation with the study groups of the other two Sectors in order to avoid duplication of effort and make proactive use of the outcomes of the study groups of those two Sectors;

2 the Director of TSB to report annually to TSAG on the implementation of this resolution,

instructs the study groups of the ITU Telecommunication Standardization Sector and the Director of the Telecommunication Standardization Bureau

to take all appropriate actions for the implementation of this resolution,

invites Member States and Sector Members

1 to support efforts to improve inter-Sector coordination, including taking an active part in groups established by the Sector advisory groups for coordination activities;

2 to actively participate in the implementation of this resolution by, *inter alia*: providing experts to assist developing countries; contributing to information meetings, seminars and workshops; providing the necessary expertise in matters under consideration by the ITU-D study groups; and hosting trainees from developing countries.

ANNEX A (to Resolution 18 (Rev. New Delhi, 2024))

Procedural method of cooperation

With respect to *resolves* 2 i) of Resolution 18 (Rev. New Delhi, 2024) of the World Telecommunication Standardization Assembly, the following procedure should be applied:

- a) The joint meeting of the advisory groups referred to in *resolves* 1 of Resolution 18 (Rev. New Delhi, 2024) will nominate the Sector which will lead the work and will finally approve the deliverable.
- b) The lead Sector will request the other Sectors to indicate those requirements which it considers essential for integration in the deliverable.
- c) The lead Sector will base its work on these essential requirements and integrate them in its draft deliverable.
- d) During the process of development of the required deliverable, the lead Sector shall consult with the other Sectors if it has difficulties with these essential requirements. In the event of agreement on revised essential requirements, the revised requirements shall be the basis for further work.
- e) When the deliverable concerned comes to maturity, the lead Sector shall once more seek the views of the other Sectors.

In the determination of the work responsibility, it may be appropriate to progress the work by drawing jointly on the skills of the Sectors involved.

ANNEX B
(to Resolution 18 (Rev. New Delhi, 2024))

Coordination of radiocommunication, standardization and development activities through inter-Sector coordination groups

With respect to *resolves 2 ii)* of Resolution 18 (Rev. New Delhi, 2024) of the World Telecommunication Standardization Assembly, the following procedure shall be applied:

- a) The joint meeting of the advisory groups referred to in resolves 1 of Resolution 18 (Rev. New Delhi, 2024) may, in exceptional cases, establish an inter-Sector coordination group (ICG) to coordinate the work of the Sectors involved and to assist the advisory groups in coordinating the related activity of their respective study groups.
- b) The joint meeting shall, at the same time, nominate the Sector which will lead the work.
- c) The mandate of each ICG shall be clearly defined by the joint meeting, based on the particular circumstances and issues at the time the group is established; the joint meeting shall also establish a target date for termination of the ICG.
- d) The ICG shall designate a chair and a vice-chair, one representing each Sector.
- e) The ICG shall be open to members of the participating Sectors in accordance with Nos. 86-88, 110-112 and 134-136 of the ITU Constitution.
- f) The ICG shall not develop Recommendations.
- g) The ICG shall prepare reports on its coordinating activities to be presented to each Sector's advisory group; these reports shall be submitted by the Directors to the participating Sectors.
- h) An ICG may also be established by the World Telecommunication Standardization Assembly or by the Radiocommunication Assembly or by the World Telecommunication Development Conference following a recommendation by the advisory group(s) of the other Sector(s).
- i) The cost of an ICG shall be supported by the participating Sectors on an equal basis and each Director shall include budgetary provisions for such meetings in the budget of his or her Sector.

ANNEX C
(to Resolution 18 (Rev. New Delhi, 2024))

Coordination of radiocommunication, telecommunication standardization and development activities through inter-Sector rapporteur groups

With respect to *resolves 2 ii)* of Resolution 18 (Rev. New Delhi, 2024) of the World Telecommunication Standardization Assembly, the following procedure shall be applied when work on a specific subject could be best performed by bringing together technology experts from the study groups or working parties concerned of either two or three Sectors to cooperate on a peer-to-peer basis in a technical group:

- a) The study groups or working parties concerned in each Sector may, in special cases, agree by mutual consultation to establish an inter-Sector rapporteur group (IRG) to coordinate their work on a specific technical subject, informing the Radiocommunication Advisory Group, Telecommunication Standardization Advisory Group and Telecommunication Development Advisory Group of this action through a liaison statement.
- b) The study groups or working parties concerned in each Sector shall, at the same time, agree on clearly defined terms of reference for the IRG, and establish a target date for completion of the work and termination of the IRG.
- c) The study groups or working parties concerned in each Sector shall also designate the chair (or co-chairs) of the IRG, taking into account the requested specific expertise and ensuring equitable representation of each Sector.
- d) Being a rapporteur group, the IRG shall be regulated by the provisions applicable to rapporteur groups, given in the most recent versions of Resolution ITU-R 1 of the Radiocommunication Assembly, Recommendation ITU-T A.1, and Resolution 1 of the World Telecommunication Development Conference; participation is limited to members of the Sectors involved.
- e) In fulfilling its mandate, an IRG may develop draft new Recommendations or draft revisions to Recommendations, as well as draft technical reports or draft revisions to technical reports, to be submitted to its parent study groups or working parties for further processing as appropriate.
- f) The results of the IRG's work should represent the agreed consensus of the IRG or reflect the diversity of views of the participants in the IRG.
- g) An IRG shall also prepare reports on its activities, to be submitted to each meeting of its parent study groups or working parties.
- h) An IRG shall normally work by correspondence and/or by teleconference; however, it may occasionally take the opportunity of a meeting of its parent study groups or working parties to hold short face-to-face concurrent meetings, if this is feasible without support by the Sectors.