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Chairman, WG1

**PRELIMINARY APT COMMON PROPOSAL**

**Proposed modification TO WTSA-16 Resolution 67**

**Use in the ITU Telecommunication Standardization Sector of the languages of the Union on an equal footing**

**Abstract:**

This document contains a proposal of modification to WTSA-16 Resolution 67 “Use in the ITU Telecommunication Standardization Sector of the languages of the Union on an equal footing”. Aiming to broaden ITU’s influence around the world, it proposes to request TSB to cooperate with regional/national SDOs to refine the terminologies and their translation into the individual official languages, and to request TSB to release publications regularly to introduce the new terms and definitions developed during an on-going study period.

**Introduction**

WTSA-16 Resolution 67 for “Use in the ITU Telecommunication Standardization Sector of the languages of the Union on an equal footing” resolves that the Telecommunication Standardization Bureau (TSB) should collect all new terms and definitions which are proposed by the ITU‑T study groups in consultation with SCV, and enter them in the online ITU Terms and Definitions database.

It is of great importance to have terminologies translated into all six official languages. This may broaden the influence of ITU worldwide and facilitate the standardization activities in developing countries, while ensuring the conformity and accuracy of the wording in ITU-T Recommendations.

Actually, the equal use of the six official languages in the terms and definitions database is still considerably behind expectation. The definition and translation of terminologies into different languages is such a rigorous and precise task that it requires the joint efforts of native-speaking experts and technicians other than ITU translators and interpreters. As regional/national SDOs have a deep understanding of the relevant vocabulary in their native languages and rich experience in deciding the authentic wording of emerging technologies, it is recommended that TSB cooperate with regional/national SDOs to refine the terminologies and their translation into the individual official languages (even if the definition is not translated in the first place).

In addition, member states and sector members need to be informed of the outcomes regarding the definition of terminologies in ITU-T, and the updated vocabulary of emerging technologies. It is therefore recommended that TSB regularly release publications to introduce the new terms and definitions developed during an on-going study period, as well as the translated definitions into all six official languages.

It should be noted that the ITU Council at its 2017 session decided to establish the ITU Terminology Coordinating Committee (ITU CCT). Consisting of ITU-R CCV, ITU-T SCV, and ITU-D representatives, this committee functions in line with relevant resolutions of RA and WTSA and in close collaboration with the secretariat.

**Proposal**

APT Member administrations propose to refine WTSA Resolution 67, as in the annex below.

**Annex**

**MOD**

RESOLUTION 67 (Rev. Hyderabad, 2020)

Use in the ITU Telecommunication Standardization Sector of   
the languages of the Union on an equal footing

(Johannesburg, 2008; Dubai, 2012; Hammamet, 2016; Hyderabad, 2020)

The World Telecommunication Standardization Assembly (Hyderabad, 2020),

recognizing

*a)* the adoption by the Plenipotentiary Conference of Resolution 154 (Rev. Dubai, 2018), on the use of the six official languages of the Union on an equal footing, which instructs the ITU Council and the General Secretariat on how to achieve equal treatment of the six languages;

*b)* Resolution 1372 of the Council, as revised at its 2019 session, which notes the work accomplished by the ITU Radiocommunication Sector (ITU‑R) Coordination Committee for Vocabulary (CCV) and the ITU Telecommunication Standardization Sector (ITU‑T) Standardization Committee for Vocabulary (SCV) on the adoption and agreement of terms and definitions in the field of telecommunications/information and communication technologies (ICT) in all six official languages of the Union;

*c)* the decisions of the Council centralizing the editing functions for languages in the General Secretariat (Conferences and Publications Department), calling upon the Sectors to provide the final texts in English only (this applies also to terms and definitions),

*d)* Resolution 1386, adopted by the Council at its 2017 session, on ITU Coordination Committee for Terminology (ITU CCT) that consists of ITU-R CCV and ITU-T SCV functioning in accordance with relevant resolutions of RA and WTSA, and representatives of ITU-D, in close collaboration with the secretariat,

considering

*a)* that under Resolution 154 (Rev. Dubai, 2018), the Council is instructed to continue the work of the Council Working Group on Languages (CWG-LANG), in order to monitor progress and report to the Council on the implementation of that resolution;

*b)* the importance of providing information in all the official languages of the Union on an equal footing on ITU‑T webpages,

noting

that SCV was established in accordance with Resolution 67 (Johannesburg, 2008) of the World Telecommunication Standardization Assembly (WTSA), on the initiation of SCV,

resolves

1 that the ITU‑T study groups, within their terms of reference, should continue their work on technical and operational terms and their definitions in English only;

2 that the work on standardization vocabulary within ITU‑T shall be based on the proposals made by the study groups in the English language, with the consideration and adoption of the translation into the other five official languages as proposed by the General Secretariat, and that this shall be ensured by SCV;

3 that, when proposing terms and definitions, the ITU‑T study groups shall use the guidelines given in Annex B to the "Author's guide for drafting ITU‑T Recommendations";

4 that, where more than one ITU‑T study group is defining the same terms and/or concept, efforts should be made to select a single term and a single definition which is acceptable to all of the ITU‑T study groups concerned;

5 that, when selecting terms and preparing definitions, the ITU‑T study groups shall take into account the established use of terms and existing definitions in ITU, in particular those appearing in the online ITU Terms and Definitions database;

6 that the Telecommunication Standardization Bureau (TSB) should collect all new terms and definitions which are proposed by the ITU‑T study groups in consultation with SCV, enter them in the online ITU Terms and Definitions database, and publish them as technical report every on-going study period;

7 that the Telecommunication Standardization Bureau (TSB) should cooperate with regional/national SDOs in official language-speaking countries to refine the translation of new terminologies into respective official languages;

8 that SCV should work in close collaboration with CCV in ITU‑R, holding joint meetings where possible, preferably online;

9 that, in its work, SCV should be guided by the provisions of Resolution 154 (Rev. Busan, 2014) and collaborate in this regard with CWG-LANG;

10 that the Telecommunication Standardization Advisory Group (TSAG) and the Radiocommunication Advisory Group should consider the feasibility of establishing a joint working body within ITU to deal with issues of vocabulary and use of all six languages of the Union on an equal footing, and to report to their respective assemblies,

instructs the Director of the Telecommunication Standardization Bureau

1 to continue to translate all Recommendations approved under the traditional approval process (TAP) in all the languages of the Union;

2 to translate all TSAG reports in all the languages of the Union;

3 to include in the circular that announces the approval of a Recommendation an indication of whether it will be translated;

4 to continue the practice of translating ITU‑T Recommendations approved under the alternative approval process (AAP), with the possibility of doubling the number of pages of such Recommendations translated, within the financial resources of the Union;

5 to monitor the quality of translation and associated expenses;

6 to bring this resolution to the attention of the Director of the Radiocommunication Bureau,

invites the Council

1 to take appropriate measures to ensure that information is posted on the ITU websites in the six official languages of the Union on an equal footing within budgetary limits, consistent with Council Resolution 1372;

2 to consider a review of Resolution 154 (Rev. Dubai, 2018) to enable the feasibility of establishing a single working body within ITU to deal with issues of vocabulary and use of all six languages of the Union on an equal footing,

instructs the Telecommunication Standardization Advisory Group

to consider the best mechanism for deciding which Recommendations approved under AAP shall be translated, in light of the relevant Council decisions.

Annex  
(to Resolution 67 (Rev. Hyderabad, 2020))

Terms of reference for the Standardization Committee for Vocabulary

**1** To represent the interests of ITU-T in the ITU Coordination Committee for Terminology (ITU CCT).

2 To provide consultation on terms and definitions for vocabulary work for ITU‑T in the six languages, in close collaboration with the General Secretariat (Conferences and Publications Department), the TSB editor for the English language as well as the relevant study group rapporteurs for vocabulary, and to seek harmonization among all ITU‑T study groups concerned regarding terms and definitions.

**3** To liaise through ITU CCT with other organizations dealing with vocabulary work in the telecommunication field, for example the International Organization for Standardization (ISO) and the International Electrotechnical Commission (IEC) as well as the ISO/IEC Joint Technical Committee for Information Technology (JTC 1), in order to eliminate duplication of terms and definitions.

**4** To inform TSAG at least once per year of its activities and to report its results to the next WTSA.