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| **The 4th Meeting of the APT Preparatory Group**  **for PP-22 (APT PP22-4)** | **APT PP22-3/OUT-30** |
| 1-5 August 2022, Bangkok, Thailand | 5 August 2022 |

APT Preparatory Group for ITU Plenipotentiary Conference 2022

**Preliminary APT Common Proposal**

**PROPOSED MODIFICATIONs TO RESOLUTION 154**

Use of the six official languages of the Union on an equal footing

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| **Summary:**  PP Resolution 154 for “Use of the six official languages of the Union on an equal footing” resolves that the Secretary-General and the Council should, working in close collaboration with CCT, complete and maintain the ITU database for telecommunication/ICT terminology and definitions for all languages. The main modifications include the collaboration of the Secretary-General with interested Member States and SDOs in partnership with the ITU to refine the translation of terminology and definitions in the individual official languages, and the invitation of Member States and Sector Members to cooperate with CCT. |

**INTRODUCTION**

The ITU Secretary-General maintains the ITU database for telecommunication/ICT terminology and definitions. So far, the equal use of six official languages in the terminology and definitions database is still considerably far behind expectation. The translation of terminology and definitions in different languages is such a rigorous and precise task, that it requires the joint efforts of native-speaking experts and technicians besides 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 the Secretary-General collaborate with interested Member States and SDOs in partnership with ITU to refine the translation of terminology and definitions in the individual official languages, it is also recommended that Member States and Sector Members submit their contributions and inputs to help improve the translation of terminology in relevant official languages.

WTSA-20 Resolution 67 “Use in the ITU Telecommunication Standardization Sector of the languages of the Union on an equal footing” has been modified as follows: the work of standardizing vocabulary within ITU T shall be considered and the translation into the six official languages shall be adopted as proposed by the General Secretariat, and ensured by the ITU CCT. WTSA-20 Resolution 67 also invite Member States to cooperate with ITU in the refinement of the official language translation of terms and definitions at the request of CCT.

**PROPOSAL**

APT Member Administrations propose the revision of PP Resolution 154 on the improvement of translation of Terminology and Definitions of the six official languages shown in this document.

**PACP-12**

**MOD**

RESOLUTION 154 (Rev. BUCHAREST, 2022)

Use of the six official languages of the Union on an equal footing

The Plenipotentiary Conference of the International Telecommunication Union (Bucharest, 2022),

recalling

*a)* United Nations General Assembly Resolution 67/292, on multilingualism;

*b)* Resolution 66 (Rev. Dubai, 2018) of this conference;

*c)* Resolution 165 (Rev. Dubai, 2018) of this conference;

*d)* Resolution 168 (Rev. Guadalajara, 2010) of the Plenipotentiary Conference;

*e)* Decision 5 (Rev. Dubai, 2018) of this conference;

*f)* Decision 11 (Rev. Dubai, 2018) of this conference,

reaffirming

the fundamental principle of equal treatment of the six official languages, as enshrined in Resolution 154 (Rev. Busan, 2014) of the Plenipotentiary Conference, on the use of the six languages on an equal footing,

noting with satisfaction and appreciation

*a)* the progress made in the implementation of Resolution 154 (Rev. Busan, 2014) in regard to alignment of working methods and optimization of staffing levels in the six languages, linguistic unification of databases for terminology and definitions and centralizing editing functions;

*b)* ITU's active participation in the International Annual Meeting on Language Arrangements, Documentation and Publications (IAMLADP);

*c)* the development of the ITU database for telecommunication/information and communication technology (ICT) terminology and definitions in Arabic, Russian and Chinese;

*d)* the work accomplished by the joint ITU Coordination Committee for Terminology (CCT), the Coordination Committee for Vocabulary (CCV) of the ITU Radiocommunication Sector, and the Standardization Committee for Vocabulary (SCV) of the ITU Telecommunication Standardization Sector on the adoption and agreement of terms and definitions in the field of telecommunications/ICTs in all six official languages of the Union,

noting further

*a)* Resolution 1372, adopted by the ITU Council at its 2016 session, on the Council Working Group on Languages (CWG-LANG)*;*

*b)* Resolution 1386, adopted by the Council at its 2017 session, on CCT;

*c)* the relevant resolutions of the ITU Sectors on languages,

recognizing

*a)* that translation and interpretation are essential elements of the work of the Union that enable a common understanding among the entire ITU membership on the important issues under discussion;

*b)* the importance of maintaining and improving the multilingual content of services required by the universal character of United Nations system organizations, as called for in the United Nations Joint Inspection Unit report on Multilingualism in the United Nations System (Document JIU/REP/2002/11);

*c)* the work accomplished by CWG-LANG, as well as the work by the secretariat to implement the working group's recommendations as agreed by the Council, in particular with regard to the unification of linguistic databases for terminology and definitions and the centralization of editing functions, the integration of the terminology database for Arabic, Chinese and Russian as well as harmonizing and unifying working procedures in the six language services,

recognizing further

*a)* the budget constraints facing the Union, and the importance of ensuring that ITU's work on the use of the languages of the Union on an equal footing is considered in conjunction with the budget so as to achieve an efficient allocation of expenses;

*b)* that Decision 5 (Rev. Dubai, 2018) stipulates in *decides* 1.2 that expenses on interpretation, translation and text processing in respect of the official languages of the Union shall not exceed CHF 85 million for the years 2020-2023,

resolves

to continue to take all necessary measures to ensure use of the six official languages of the Union on an equal footing and to provide interpretation and the translation of ITU documentation, although some work in ITU (for example working parties, regional conferences) might not require the use of all six languages,

instructs the Secretary-General, in close collaboration with the Directors of the Bureaux

1 to present annually to the Council and to CWG-LANG a report containing:

– evolution of the budget for translation of documents to the six official languages of the Union since 2014, taking into consideration variations in the volumes of translation services provided in each year;

– procedures adopted by other international organizations inside and outside the United Nations system and benchmark studies on their costs of translation;

– initiatives undertaken by the General Secretariat and the three Bureaux to increase efficiencies and cost savings in the implementation of this resolution and comparison with the evolution of the budget since 2010;

– alternative translation procedures feasible to be adopted by ITU, in particular the use of innovative technologies, and their advantages and disadvantages;

– progress made on the implementation of measures and principles for translation and interpretation adopted by the Council;

2 to immediately publish all contributions submitted to the ITU secretariat for any ITU event in their original language on the respective event website even before their translation into the other official languages of the Union;

3 to continue work on harmonization of the ITU Sectors' websites to ensure clarity, ease of navigation and an image of One ITU;

4 to provide timely updates of the pages of the ITU website in all six languages of the Union;

5 to continue to collaborate with interested Member States and, to the extent practicable and where necessary, to collaborate with related standards development organizations (SDOs) in partnership with the ITU to refine the translation of terminology and definitions in all six official languages,

instructs the ITU Council

1 to continue to analyse the adoption by ITU of alternative translation procedures, taking into account their financial implications and leveraging the benefits of innovative technologies in order to reduce translation and typing expenses in the budget of the Union, while maintaining or improving the current quality of translation and the correct use of technical telecommunication terminology;

2 to continue to analyse, including through the use of appropriate indicators, application of the updated measures and principles for interpretation and translation adopted by the Council at its 2014 session, taking into consideration the financial constraints, and bearing in mind the ultimate objective of full implementation of treatment of the six official languages on an equal footing;

3 to pursue and monitor appropriate operational measures, such as:

– to continue review of ITU documentation and publication services with a view to eliminating any duplication and to creating synergies;

– to facilitate the timely and simultaneous delivery of high-quality and efficient language services (interpretation, documentation, publications and public-information materials) in the six languages, in support of the Union's strategic goals;

– to support optimum levels of staffing, including core staff, temporary assistance and outsourcing, while ensuring the required high quality of interpretation and translation;

– to continue implementation of judicious and efficient use of ICTs in language and publications activities, taking into consideration experience gained by other international organizations and best practices;

– to continue to explore and implement all possible measures to reduce the size and volume of documents (page-limits, executive summaries, material in annexes or hyperlinks), and achieve greener meetings, when justified, without affecting the quality and content of the documents to be translated or to be published, and bearing clearly in mind the need to comply with the United Nations system objective of multilingualism;

– as a matter of priority, to take, to the extent practicable, all necessary measures for equitable use of the six languages on the ITU website in terms of multilingual content and user-friendliness;

4 to monitor the work carried out by the ITU secretariat in regard to:

– merging all existing databases for terminology and definitions into a centralized system, with proper measures for its maintenance, expansion and updating;

– completion and maintenance of the ITU database for telecommunication/ICT terminology and definitions for all languages;

– providing the six language service units with the necessary qualified staff and tools to meet their requirements in each language;

– enhancing ITU's image and the effectiveness of its public-information work, making use of all six languages of the Union, in, among other things, publishing ITU News, creating ITU websites, organizing Internet broadcasting and archiving of recordings, and issuing documents of a public-information nature, including announcements of ITU Telecom events, e-flashes and such like;

5 to maintain CWG-LANG, in order to monitor progress and report to the Council on the implementation of this resolution, working in close collaboration with CCT and the Council Working Group on financial and human resources;

6 to review, in collaboration with the Sector advisory groups, the types of material to be included in output documents and translated;

7 to continue to consider measures to reduce, without sacrificing quality, the cost and volume of documentation as a standing item, in particular for conferences and assemblies;

8 to report to the next plenipotentiary conference on the implementation of this resolution,

invites Member States and Sector Members

1 to ensure that the different language versions of documents and publications are utilized, downloaded and purchased by the corresponding language communities, for the sake of maximizing their benefit and cost-effectiveness;

2 to submit their contributions and inputs sufficiently early before the beginning of conferences, assemblies and meetings of the Union, respecting deadlines for the submission of contributions that require translation, and to contain their size and volume to the greatest extent;

3 to continue to cooperate in the refinement of the official language translation of terminology and definitions at the request of CCT.

(Antalya, 2006) – (Rev. Guadalajara, 2010) – (Rev. Busan, 2014) – (Rev. Dubai, 2018) – (Bucharest, 2022)