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| **The APT Preparatory Group for PP-14** | | **Document**  **PP14-3/OUT-16** | |
|  | | **05 June 2014** | |

**preliminary apt common proposal: proposed REVISION OF RESOLUTION 123 (REV. GUADALAJARA, 2010)**

1. **Introduction:**

In the Strategic Plan for the Union 2011-2015, one of three strategic goals for ITU-T is “to assist in bridging the standardization gap between developed and developing countries”. This was also one of the four objectives of this sector.

The Draft four-year Rolling Operational Plan for the 2015 to 2018 timeframe of ITU-T said “*The second part of the strategic goal of ITU-T is to bridge the standards gap, namely to involve as many of the ITU member countries as possible in the development of standards. ITU-T has been quite successful in this with over 40 new countries participating in our work since 2006, countries that had never participated in the standards sector before. Notably, the participation by the African region in ITU-T study group meetings rose significantly. 2013 saw a 40 percent increase in the number of delegates using remote participation to join ITU-T meetings: over 3000 remote participants took part in over 600 meetings that offered remote participation*”

The above result is remarkable and should be upheld in the coming period. WTSA-12 approved the revised resolution 44 on “Bridging the standardization gap” in which 3 resolution 17, 44 and 54 were combined together to an entire action plan for the task: bridging the standardization gap and support for developing countries. This once again affirms the important task for ITU in the next period is to continue the Bridging Standardization Gap program.

ICT/Telecommunication human resources play an important role in the process of ICT/Telecommunication development. Therefore, human capacity building should be one of the main activities in bridging the standardization gap. ITU is expected to assist developing countries in this task so that they can have stronger human resources to serve in the process of ICT/Telecommunication development.

1. **Proposals:**

With the above point of view, APT Members proposed to make the revision to Resolution 123 as follows:

**PACP/17**

**MOD**

RESOLUTION 123 (Rev. Busan, 2014)

Bridging the standardization gap between developing and developed countries

The Plenipotentiary Conference of the International Telecommunication Union (Busan, 2014),

recalling

Resolution 123 (Rev. Guadalajara, 2010) of the Plenipotentiary Conference,

considering

*a)* that "*the Union shall in particular facilitate the worldwide standardization of telecommunications, with a satisfactory quality of service"* (No. 13 in Article 1 of the ITU Constitution);

*b)* that, in connection with the functions and structure of the Telecommunication Standardization Sector (ITU-T), in Article 17, the Constitution indicates that those functions shall be "..., *bearing in mind the particular concerns of the developing countries, to fulfil the purposes of the Union*...";

*c)* that, over the recent period,ITU-T ‘s objectives included working to "*provide support and assistance to developing countries in bridging the standardization gap in relation with standardization matters, information and communication network infrastructure and applications, and relevant training materials for capacity building, taking into account the characteristics of the telecommunication environment of the developing countries*",

*d)* that, one of the strategic goals and target of the Union for 2016-2019 is “Inclusiveness – Bridge the digital divide to provide broadband for all”

*e)* that, under the strategic plan for the Union for 2016-2019, ITU-T is to work to *"Promote and assist the active participation of the membership, with special support for developing countries, in the definition and adoption of telecommunication/ICT standards (ITU-T Recommendations) with a view to bridging the standardization gap between developed and developing countries”*,

considering further

*a)* that the World Telecommunication Standardization Assembly adopted Resolutions 44and 54 to assist in bridging the standardization gap between developing and developed countries;

*b)* that the World Telecommunication Development Conference adopted Resolution 47 (Rev. Dubai, 2014), which calls for activities to enhance knowledge and effective application of recommendations of ITU-T and of the ITU Radiocommunication Sector (ITU-R) in developing countries, and Resolution 37 (Rev. Dubai, 2014), which recognizes the need to create digital opportunities in developing countries,

recalling

that the Geneva Plan of Action and Tunis Agenda for the Information Society of the World Summit on Information Society (WSIS) emphasize efforts to overcome the digital divide and development divides,

noting

the following outcomes for ITU-T in the strategic plan for the Union for 2016-2019, adopted in Resolution 71 (Rev. Busan, 2014) of this conference:

* Increased participation in the ITU-T standardization process, including attendance of meetings, submission of contributions, taking leadership positions and hosting of meetings/workshops, especially from developing countries.

*noting further*

the following ITU’s on-going actions are still in need:

• to develop interoperable, non-discriminatory international standards (ITU-T recommendations)

• to assist in bridging the standardization gap between developed and developing countries;

• to extend and facilitate international cooperation among international and regional standardization bodies

• to provide assistance to developing countries in bridging the digital divide by achieving broader telecommunication/ICT-enabled socio-economic development,

recognizing

*a)* the continued shortage of skilled human resources in the standardization field in developing countries, resulting in a low level of developing-country participation in ITU-T and ITU-R meetings, in spite of the improvement observed in such participation lately, and, consequently, in the standards-making process, leading to difficulties when interpreting ITU-T and ITU-R recommendations;

*b)* ongoing challenges relating to capacity building, in particular for developing countries, in the light of rapid technological innovation and increased convergence of services;

*c)* the moderate level of participation by representatives of developing countries in ITU standardization activities, whether through lack of awareness of these activities, difficulties in accessing information, lack of training for human talent in standardization-related matters, or lack of financial resources to travel to meeting sites, which are factors with impact in terms of widening the existing knowledge gap;

*d)* that technological needs and realities vary from country to country and region to region, and in many cases developing countries do not have opportunities or mechanisms to make them known;

*e)* that in implementation of the provisions of the Annex to Resolution 44 (Rev. Dubai, 2012) and of Resolutions 54 (Rev. Dubai, 2012), ITU actions have been carried out through ITU-T to assist in reducing the standardization gap between developing and developed countries,

taking into account

*a)* that developing countries could benefit from improved capability in the application and development of standards;

*b)* that ITU-T and ITU-R activities and the telecommunication/information and communication technology (ICT) market could also benefit from better involvement of developing countries in standards-making and standards application;

*c)* that initiatives to assist in bridging the standardization gap are intrinsic to, and are a high priority task of, the Union;

*d)* that although ITU is making efforts to reduce the standardization gap, major disparities in knowledge and management of standards remain between developing and developed countries,

resolves to instruct the Secretary-General and the Directors of the three Bureaux

1 to work closely with each other on the follow-up and implementation of this resolution, as well as Resolution ITU-R 7 (Geneva, 2012) of the Radiocommunication Assembly, Resolutions 44 and 54 (Rev. Dubai, 2012) and 47 (Rev. Dubai, 2014), and to step up actions intended and to reduce the standardization gap between developing and developed countries;

2 to maintain a close coordination mechanism among the three Sectors at the regional level for bridging the digital divide, through activities of the ITU regional offices to that end;

3 to provide developing Member States with assistance to enhance human capacity building in the standardization field

4 to identify ways and means to support the participation of representatives of developing countries in the meetings of the three Sectors of ITU and the dissemination of information on standardization;

5to further collaborate with the relevant regional organizations and support their work in this area,

6 to strengthen the reporting mechanisms on the implementation of the action plan associated with Resolution 44 (Rev. Dubai, 2012) through, for example, the annual operational plans,

invites Member States and Sector Members

to make voluntary contributions (financial and inkind) to the fund for bridging the standardization gap, as well as to undertake concrete actions to support ITU's actions and the initiatives of its three Sectors and its regional offices in this matter.

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