WORLD TELECOMMUNICATION STANDARDIZATION ASSEMBLY
New Delhi, 15-24 October 2024

Resolution 108 – Strategic planning in the ITU Telecommunication Standardization Sector

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 108 (New Delhi, 2024)

Strategic planning in the ITU Telecommunication Standardization Sector

(New Delhi, 2024)

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

recalling

a)   Resolution 71 (Rev. Bucharest, 2022) of the Plenipotentiary Conference, on the strategic plan for the Union for 2024-2027;

b)   Resolution 151 (Rev. Bucharest, 2022) of the Plenipotentiary Conference, on improvement of results-based management (RBM) in ITU;

c)   Resolution 68 (Rev. New Delhi, 2024) of this assembly, on evolving role of industry in the ITU Telecommunication Standardization Sector (ITU-T);

d)   Resolution 99 (Rev. New Delhi, 2024) of this assembly, on restructuring of the ITU-T study groups;

e)   Resolution 2 (Rev. New Delhi, 2024) of this assembly, on scope and mandate of the ITU-T study groups;

f)   Resolution 22 (Rev. New Delhi, 2024) of this assembly, on authorization for the Telecommunication Standardization Advisory Group (TSAG) to act between world telecommunication standardization assemblies,

recognizing

a)   that the enhancement in ITU's organizational excellence has been highlighted in the strategic plan for the Union for 2024-2027 and Decision 5 (Rev. Bucharest, 2022) of the Plenipotentiary Conference;

b)   that Resolution 71 (Rev. Bucharest, 2022) has acknowledged the need for ITU to provide membership with services of the highest quality and efficiency while achieving tangible results, optimizing the value of membership investments, streamlining cost structures and upholding the highest standards of transparency and accountability;

c)   that, in order for ITU-T to remain relevant in the international standardization landscape, there is a need to integrate strategic planning and a culture of continuous evolution and improvement as a key management process, including support for the ITU-T study groups;

d)   that a comprehensive approach to strategic planning will help ensure that ITU-T continues to evolve to meet the principles of excellence, cost-effectiveness, attractiveness and strategic prioritization of activities that provide significant value and impact to the ITU-T membership, including the industry component;

e)   that mainstreaming this strategic planning approach in ITU-T is becoming more critical than ever for a very fast changing, demanding ITU-T membership and industry and for achieving the Sustainable Development Goals;

f)   that strategic planning in ITU-T should be part of a broader process of the implementation of the strategic plan for the Union and the ITU-T operational plan, while reflecting the RBM approach;

g)   that ITU-T strategic planning needs to be undertaken with the involvement of the ITU-T membership,

noting

a)   that effective and efficient working methods and work programmes are key enablers for a fit-for-purpose ITU-T;

b)   the efforts across TSAG rapporteur groups in making ITU-T more relevant and fit for purpose, such as industry engagement, ITU-T study group restructuring and the high-level, private-sector executive meeting assessment process, and also noting that they would benefit from a more holistic, integrated and results-based approach in ITU-T;

c)   that a vision is needed to guide the overall strategic planning of ITU-T, which includes continuous progress and improvement not only of working methods, study group restructuring and industry engagement, but also of the processes to evaluate work item proposals, so that ITU-T can focus on activities and initiatives that have the most impact on achieving ITU's strategic goals and increase responsiveness to the membership's needs;

d)   Supplement 6 to the ITU-T A-series Recommendations, on guidelines for the development of a standardization gap analysis, which aims to enhance a common understanding of necessary work, identify competitive advantages and uncover strategic standardization opportunities, while optimizing allocation of resources;

e)   that there is a critical need for ITU-T to align its strategic planning with financial, operational and human resources planning,

resolves

1   to integrate a strategic approach into ITU-T processes in order to enhance and position the Sector as fit for purpose, thus contributing to the achievement of the overall ITU strategy;

2   to develop a strategy for ITU-T's continuous evolution and improvement in alignment with the strategic plan for the Union, to ensure that ITU-T remains relevant and effective in an ever-changing telecommunication landscape, considering the needs of all ITU membership,

instructs the Telecommunication Standardization Advisory Group

1   to develop a vision, strategic priorities and action plan, including an ITU-T value proposition, to reflect a strategic approach for ITU-T's continuous evolution and improvement, in collaboration with all ITU-T stakeholders, including the Telecommunication Standardization Bureau (TSB);

2   as an output of the ITU-T strategic approach,

i)   to continue improving the alignment between the ITU-T operational plan and the strategic plan for the Union;

ii)   to provide appropriate input from TSAG for consideration of the ITU Council Working Group for strategic and financial plans (CWG-SFP);

3   to include in the operational plan consideration of key enablers of success in the ITU-T results framework, including industry engagement, a fit-for-purpose ITU-T study groups structure and work programmes, effective promotion and coordination, reinvigorated high-level, private-sector executive meetings, TSB secretariat support, ITU-T website, effective and up-to-date ITU-T electronic meeting platforms and related governance and management, and business continuity, among others;

4   to review the implementation of strategic planning in ITU-T based on reports from TSB and relevant TSAG rapporteur groups in order to assess effectiveness and provide guidance on ongoing improvements,

instructs the Director of the Telecommunication Standardization Bureau

1   to mainstream RBM in ITU-T, including through a results-based operational plan aligned with ITU strategy, while considering TSB support for the regional presence and providing regular reporting to TSAG, CWG-SFP and the Council on actions planned and undertaken in that regard;

2   to support strategic planning in ITU-T by developing an ITU-T risk management approach that considers strategic and operational risks and associated mitigation measures,

instructs the study groups of the ITU Telecommunication Standardization Sector

to actively participate in ITU-T strategic planning processes,

invites Member States and Sector Members

to contribute to ITU-T strategic planning processes.