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Subject: Draft ECP on ITU-R Study Group Restructuring

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N

Summary:

ECP x on ITU-T Study Group Restructuring

Proposal:

For consideration.

Background:

World Telecommunication Standardization Assembly 2012 (WTSA-12)

ECP x on ITU-T Study Group Restructuring

DRAFT PROPOSAL TO RESTRUCTURE ITU-T STUDY GROUPS AT WTS-12

1. Introduction

This ECP uses a number of principles that were developed to ensure a consistent and transparent approach to the discussion. These principles are listed below. The principles were applied to the current ITU T structure, and resulted in a number of proposed changes. The rationale for the changes is presented with each proposed change.

2. Principles

The following principles were used when considering the ITU-T study group structure:

- Optimise the structure of the study groups:
ITU-T needs to have the best possible structure for the development of technical standards. This will allow the ITU T to exploit the expertise available to it from its members, and allow Members to maximise the benefit that ITU-T offers, e.g. in the reduction in CAPEX and OPEX costs for future new generation of networks. It is noted that some Questions have no Rapporteur and/or no (or a very limited number of) work items to the detriment of the work and setting the expectations of the Members.
- Avoid any duplication of work between study groups:ITU-T study groups need to concentrate on the key areas of work where they have the competence, expertise and responsibility and stop trying to duplicate work already underway in other standards bodies and/ or other ITU-T SGs.
- Improve the efficiency and expertise of the study group:

The commercial pressures on sector members are similar to the constraints mentioned below. The structure of the ITU –T is critical to the focusing of key experts into areas of direct concern
- Bridge the Standardisation gap:
There are severe limitations in both human and financial resources in developing nations. This means that SG structures should be such that it allows for better participation of limited participants from a Member State or its sector members.
- Minimise overall costs for ITU-T:
The need for cost savings for the ITU-T TSB in support of standards development has been identified as one of the key budgetary issue by ITU Council.

3. Existing ITU-T Study Groups

The current structure (2008 – 2012 period) is:

- TSAG – Advisory roll providing advice to T-Sector Study Groups (SGs)
- SG2: - Operational aspects
- SG3: - Economic and policy issues
- SG5: - Environment and climate change
- SG9: - Broadband cable and TV
- SG11: - Protocols and test specifications
- SG12: - Performance QoS and QoE
- SG13: - Future Networks
- SG15: - Transport and Access
- SG16: - Multimedia
- SG17: - Security

1. Proposals

All proposals shown below are based on the existing structure of Study Groups, Working Party's (WP) and Questions (Q) that were set in place at WTSA-08. It makes no attempt to pre-empt discussions that will determine new Questions to be discussed within the restructured SGs for the period 2012 – 2016.

Proposal 1: TSAG – T-Sector Advisory & Coordination Body

TSAG to retain its current advisory role.

Proposal 2: SG2 WP1 (Questions 1, 2 and 3) merge with SG3 and SG17 Questions 10 and 12

It is proposed to bring together technical expertise on numbering and routing with tariff charging and identifiers.

Rationale:

Both SG2 and SG3 traditionally tend to have a high degree of participation from National Regulatory Authorities (NRAs). A considerable number of "Internet" related work items would be addressed within this new enhanced study group. In particular, the arguments constantly table by developing countries in SG3 that high Internet tariffs are due solely to existing Internet peering arrangements that result in high tariffs for developing countries could be better addressed through allied routing studies undertaken within the new SG.

In addition, SG2's remit as the lead SG for work on numbering and addressing should be extended to cover identities as they form the very basis for that work. Recent studies within SG17 Q10 and Q12 on identity management and object identifiers have proved challenging as they required broad expertise on numbering and addressing, which was lacking in SG17.

<p>SG2 Operational Aspects</p> <p>WP1 Numbering, naming, addressing, routing and service provision Q1 Application of numbering, naming, addressing and identification plans for fixed and mobile telecommunication services Q2 Routing and interworking plan for fixed and mobile networks Q3 Service and operational aspects of telecommunications, including service definition.</p>	<p>SG3 Economic and Policy issues</p> <p>All WPs and Questions.</p>	<p>SG17 Questions 10 & 12 Security</p> <p>Q10 Identity management architecture and mechanisms</p> <p>Q12 Abstract Syntax Notation One (ASN.1), Object Identifiers (OIDs) and associated registration.</p>
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Proposal 3: SG5 Environment and Climate Change

Rationale:

No change to SG5. Environmental issues and climate change is a growing area for the ITU, participation is notably increasing.

Proposal 4: SG9, SG16 and SG2 WP1 Question 4 merge

Rationale:

There is a natural synergy between SGs 9 and 16. Questions in SG9 cover such issues as TV transmission, APIs, digital program delivery, voice and video and Questions in SG16 Questions cover H323 real time multimedia, visual coding, speech and audio coding, multimedia applications and voice band modems. In addition it's proposed to merge SG16/Q26 and SG2 WP1 Question 4 because of the synergies of the issues that they study in relation to Human Factors and Accessibility.

<p>SG9 Broadband Cable & TV</p> <p>All WPs and Questions</p>	<p>SG16 Multimedia</p> <p>All WPs and Questions</p>	<p>SG2 WP1 Q2 Human Factors</p> <p>Working Party 1 Question 4</p>
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Proposal 5: SG11 and SG13 merge

Rationale:

SG11 Protocols and Test specifications and SG13 Future Networks form a natural study group. Within other regional groups the development of future network standards and protocols are already progressed side by side. This proposal has been put forward in the past and achieved reasonable support but there is now an even stronger case as work on both Next-Generation-Network (NGN) standards and protocols has noticeably reduced. Its proposed that all existing Questions come together in this new group except two. SG13 Q4 which covers Quality of Service (QoS) enablement and appears more suited with the Study Group which focuses on QoS issues (see below).

SG11 Protocols and Test Specifications	SG13 Future Networks
All WPs and Questions	All WPs and Questions, except Question 4

Proposal 6 SG12, SG13 Q4 and SG2 WP2

SG12, Performance QoS and QoE (all Questions) to join with SG13 Question 4 which covers requirements and frameworks for QoS enablement in the NGN, and SG2 WP2 which covers Telecommunication management and network and service operation.

SG12 Performance QoS and QoE	SG2 WP2 Operational Aspects	SG13 Question 4 Future Networks
All WPs and Questions	WP2 Telecommunication management and network and service operations	Requirements and frameworks for QoS enablement in the NGN

Proposal 7: SG15 Transport and Access

Rationale:

No changes are proposed for this study group, but there are proposals to amend the Questions (see Annex B).

Proposal 8: SG17 All Questions (except Q10 & 12), and SG13 Q16

Rationale:

Security remains a major consideration and it is proposed that SG17 retain its existing role apart from the work on identity management in Q10 and identifiers in Q12, which are more appropriate to be worked on in SG2. SG13 Question 16 on 'Security and Identity management which focuses on privacy and content mechanisms needs to cover far more than the work on NGNs and fits within the security framework that is the responsibility of SG17.

SG17 Security All WPs and Questions, except for Q10 and Q12	SG13 Future Networks Q16 Security and Identity Management
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ANNEX A

ITU-T Restructuring Proposals at a glance

TSAG SG Advisory & Coordination Body		
<p style="text-align: center;">SG2 Operational Aspects</p> <p>WP1 Numbering, naming, addressing, routing and service provision.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Q1</p> <p>Application of numbering, naming, addressing and identification plans for fixed and mobile telecommunication services.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Q2</p> <p>Routing and interworking plan for fixed and mobile networks.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Q3</p> <p>Service and operational aspects of telecommunications, including service definition.</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">SG3 Economic and Policy Issues</p> <p>All WPs and Questions.</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">SG17 Questions 10 & 12</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Q10</p> <p>Identity management architecture and mechanisms.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Q12</p> <p>Abstract Syntax Notation One (ASN.1), Object Identifiers (OIDs) and associated registration.</p>
<p style="text-align: center;">SG5 Environment and Climate Change</p> <p>All WPs and Questions</p>		
<p style="text-align: center;">SG9 Broadband Cable & TV</p> <p>All WPs and Questions</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">SG16 Multimedia</p> <p>All WPs and Questions</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">SG2 Human Factors</p> <p>Working Party 1, Question 4</p>
<p style="text-align: center;">SG11 Protocols and Test Specifications</p>		<p style="text-align: center;">SG13 Future Networks</p>
<p style="text-align: center;">SG12 Performance QoS and QoE</p> <p>All WPs and Questions</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">SG2 WP2 Operational Aspects</p> <p>WP2 Telecommunication management and network and service operations</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">SG13 Question 4 Future Networks</p> <p>Requirements and frameworks for QoS enablement in the NGN</p>
<p style="text-align: center;">SG15 Transport and Access</p> <p>All WPs and Questions</p>		
<p style="text-align: center;">SG17 Security</p> <p>All WPs and Questions (except Q10 and Q12)</p>		<p style="text-align: center;">SG13 Future Networks</p> <p>Q16 Security and Identity Management</p>

Annex B Draft Proposal to restructure ITU T SG Questions

Applying the same principles to the questions as to the Study Groups results in the following proposals:

Proposal 1

NB: Proposal for WP2/2, is to move it to SG12, and to merge questions that meet together or to cease where there is no Rapporteur

Rationale: The questions meet together as indicated

- Merge Q5, Q8, Q12 and Q13/2 into one Question
- Merge Q7, Q9, Q10 and Q11/2 into one Question
- Close Q14/2

Proposal 2 Questions from SG9 and 16

- Merge Q1, Q6 and Q11/9 together, and move a new WP of SG16.

Rationale: These Questions usually meet jointly. Q1 has two work items only. Q6 has no work item.

- Merge Q2 and Q12/9 , and move to SG12

Note: Q2 has only one work item.

Rationale: The SG9 and SG12 chairmen are to ensure that the work of Q2/9 and Q12/9 is well coordinated with the work of SG12, and that experts do not have an excessive number of meetings to attend (WTSA-08 proceedings, section 2.3.2)

- Move Q3 and 4/9 to a new WP of SG16

Note: Q3 has two work items

- Merge Q5, Q7 and Q8/9 and move to a new WP of SG16

Rationale: These Questions usually meet jointly. Q5 and Q7 have only one work item.

- Close Q9/9

Rationale: The Rapporteur and Associate Rapporteur have stepped down. There has been no contribution at the last two meetings.

- Merge Q5, Q7, Q8 and Q10/9, and move to a new WP of SG16.
- Close Q11/9

Rationale: No work item.

- Close Q14/9

Rationale: Q20/16 has an alternative mandate.

- Main idea: Merge some Questions with related scopes and create a new WP with three Questions from SG9.
- Merge Q1 and Q2/16

Rationale: They are both working on multimedia systems. Q2 recommended merging with Q1.

- Merge Q4, Q12 and Q24/16

Rationale: Q4 proposed to merge with Q12 or Q24. Q12 and Q24 are dealing with multimedia aspects of NGN.

- Close Q8/16 and transfer the work (maintenance) to Q10/16.

Rationale: This Question is not very active and most of its work has already been allocated to Q10/16.

- Close Q20/16, and transfer the coordination at the WP or SG level

Rationale: This Question has very limited attendance (usually none).

- Merge Q21 and Q22/16

Rationale: These Questions meet together most of the time.

- Merge Q27 and Q18/16

Rationale: It is not very active Question and there are synergies with work in Q18.

Alternative: Merge Q27 and Q28 into a new Question dedicated to new application domains for multimedia.

Proposal 3 Merge SG11 and 13

- Move the work of Q1 and Q7/11 to Q5/13
- Rationale: Q1/11 and Q5/13 are dealing with the topic of functional architecture. Q7/11 works on signalling protocols linked to some functions of the NGN which architecture is maintained by Q5/13.

Rationale: Q1/11 and Q5/13 are dealing with the topic of functional architecture. Q7/11 works on signalling protocols linked to some functions of the NGN which architecture is maintained by Q5/13.

- Merge Q2, Q3 and Q13/11, and create a new Question in SG13.

Rationale: Q2 and Q3 always meet together. Q2 has only one work item. Q3 has two work items. Q13 is not developing Recommendations.

- Close Q4/11

Rationale: No work item.

- Move the work Q5/11 to Q4/13
- Merge Q6,Q8.Q10 and Q11/11, and create a new Question on testing in SG13.
- Alternative: Create a new Question on testing in SG17 (different from Q14/17)
- Close Q9/11

Rationale: No work item.

- Move the work of Q12/11 to Q25/16

Rationale: Both Questions are working on USN and it would be more appropriate for Q25/16 to develop test specifications related to its work. Moreover, Q12/11 has only one work item.

- Close Q15/11 but transfer the approved work items to Q15/17 (OSI maintenance).

Rationale: This Question has finished its work but since it is joint work with ISO/IEC JTC 1/SC 6, it is necessary that ITU-T transfers the responsibility to another study group in case SC 6 wants to make modifications to the common texts.

- Merge some Questions with related scopes and bring two Questions from SG11.
- Merge Q3 and 24/13

Rationale: Q24 is working on use-cases from which requirements and capabilities can be derived by Q3/13.

- Merge Q5 and Q12/13

Rationale: The merger is a central Question dealing with overall architecture issues. Participation is very low in Q12/13.

- Merge Q7/13 with another Question (this needs more investigation)

Rationale: Not very productive in terms of Recommendations of technical interest.

- Merge Q9 and Q22/13

Rationale: The merger is a Question dedicated to “mobility” aspects. Q22 has not been producing a lot of outputs in this study period.

Proposal 4 Study Group 15

- Close Q3/15

Rationale: This Question only handles coordination between Q9 to Q14. This can be done at the WP3 level.

- Possibly split Q4/15 into two Questions.

Proposal 5 Merge questions in SG 17

- Main idea: Merge some Questions with related scopes.
- Merge Q11, and Q15/17

Rationale: Q11 has limited attendance but is very active and has historically been doing joint work with ISO/IEC JTC 1/SC 6. Q15 is a placeholder for the maintenance of the OSI texts which were developed jointly with SC6.

- Merge Q13 and Q14/17

Rationale: These Questions have limited attendance (sometimes none) and are rubberstamping specifications from the SDL Consortium and from ETSI.

- Move q10 and q12/17 to SG2.

Rationale: To overcome the limited expertise in SG17 on identifiers and service definition.