

**World Telecommunication
Development Conference (WTDC-14)
Sharm El-Sheik, xxx**

**Document WTDC14/xx
xx**

Original: English

SOURCE: Proposed United States of America

TITLE:

USA/xx/xx

INTRODUCTION

The United States proposes that a new question be established in Study Group 2 to examine issues raised in Plenipotentiary Resolution 177 (Rev Guadalajara 2010), [WTDC Resolution 47 \(Sharm El-Sheik, 2014\)](#), and WTSA Resolution 76 (Dubai 2012), [as well as issues related to different types of conformance and interoperability](#), specifically to do the following:

(1) Identify and assess challenges, priorities, and problems with respect to the application of standards, type-approval programs, conformity assessment programs, and training and maintenance related to various certification schemes.

[\(2\) Examine the implications for the program of different types of conformance and interoperability, including conformance in the sense of adherence to a common policy applied to all participants within a network, or in the sense of technical compatibility among independent networks.](#)

[\(3\) Elaborate these implications in relation to ITU Recommendations and other program materials, and to capacity building, including identified critical/priority issues in the application of standards, type-approval programs, conformity assessment programs, and training and maintenance for certification processes.](#)

[\(4\) Examine how developing countries can manage these activities their challenges, priorities and problems in these areas](#) and examine effective information sharing systems to assist in this work.

[\(5\) Examination of](#) global trends related to these matters.

1 STATEMENT OF THE SITUATION OR PROBLEM

Resolution 177 of Plenipotentiary (Guadalajara, 2010), WTDC Resolution 47 (Sharm El-Sheik, 2014), Resolution 76 of WTSA (Dubai, 2012) as well as the Action Plan approved by Council 2013 (particularly Pillars 3 and 4) highlighted the importance of human and institutional capacity building and training opportunities related to type approval, conformity assessment and other related matters.

Inclusion of an ITU-D Study Group 2 Question on this matter provides an effective way to further the aims of WTDC Resolution 47 (Sharm El-Sheik, 2014), WTSA Resolution 76 (Dubai, 2012) and PP Resolution 177 (Guadalajara, 2010).

We also note that a number of considerations arise in relation to different types of networks and different senses of conformance and interoperability that apply to them, which bear upon certification of conformance and interoperability, capacity building, test centers, and best practices. For example, Plenipotentiary Resolution 101 (Rev. Guadalajara, 2010) notes that usage of the Internet brings new ICT applications, but refers to challenges that remain, including quality of service, which like other specialized services has different implications if we are talking about a network subject to the policy of a common authority, or about a network made up of networks interoperating through general purpose technical protocols. Plenipotentiary 102 (Rev. Guadalajara, 2010) refers to interoperation between ICT networks and Internet networks, but does not elaborate on the above difference between types of networks, with its importance to interoperability and conformance.

These considerations include questions regarding how the program should incorporate recognition of different kinds of conformance and interoperability to support confidence in ICTs, whether in the sense of conformance with a common policy or authority applied to all participants in the network, or in the sense of technical compatibility, either in relation to specialized services within a network or in the form of general purpose connectivity between autonomous networks.

The role of different types of conformance and interoperability should also be considered in light of policies and regulatory contexts, some of which may favor one type of network over another, and has important relationships to bridging of the digital divide and closing the standardization gap, as well as to regional group terms of reference and mobilization programs, all areas referenced by the Conformance and Interoperability resolutions WTDC 47, WTSa 76 and PP 177. They are also important considerations for the coordinating of development issues by TDAG and of standardization issues by Study Group 11 and TSAG.

Member States and ITU-D Sector Members can assist and guide each other by conducting studies, building tools to bridge the standardization gap, and navigating issues related to matters raised in the above mentioned Resolutions. ITU-D can harness the energy of its membership to examine these important issues.

2 QUESTION FOR STUDY

A Question would be established in Study Group 2 to examine these issues and do the following, taking into account the economic impact of previously mentioned programs including on Sector Members and Member States:

2.1 Identify and assess what the challenges, priorities, and problems are for countries, sub-regions, or regions with respect to the application of standards, type-approval, certification, conformity assessment, market surveillance, equipment procurement, and other related issues identifying critical issues/priority issues in countries, sub-regions, or regions, and identifying related best-practices.

2.2 Review ITU Recommendations, BDT training courses and workshops, conformance testing Recommendations, optimizing studies for preparing test specifications, testing requirements, and the program by ITU-T and the other sectors to assist developing countries in identifying opportunities for capacity building by establishing C&I testing centers, with an eye to recommending provisions not only for networks that uphold common policies for specialized treatment of IP transmissions, but also for general purpose internetworking among independent providers.

2.3 Examine the implications of incorporating recognition of both types of connectivity in relation to application of standards, type-approval, certification, conformity assessment, market surveillance, equipment procurement, and other related issues.

2.4 Examine how information transfer, know-how, training, and institutional and human capacity development can strengthen the ability of developing countries to manage type-approval, certification, conformity assessment, conformity assessment bodies, equipment procurement, and other related-issues, as well as exploring means for addressing quality assurance and equipment interoperability. Examine effective information sharing systems and best practices to assist in this work.

2.5 Identify best practices for addressing critical/priority issues on networks applying a common policy implementing specialized treatment of IP packet transmissions.

2.6 Identify best practices for addressing critical/priority issues in the context of general purpose internetworking among autonomous network providers.

2.7 Identify best practices for applying ITU Recommendations for networks that provide specialized functions among routers implementing specialized treatment of IP packets by type.

2.8 Identify best practices for applying ITU Recommendations for interoperability by general purpose IP transmissions among autonomous networks.

2.93 Examination of global trends related to these matters.

3 EXPECTED OUTPUT

The output will be a report on the results of the work concluded for each step identified above.

A final report will synthesize previous activities, and lay out a conceptual framework to chart relevant players, subject matter areas (e.g., commercial, legal, policy), providing a “road-map”, allowing for more effective and efficient information dissemination and in-country planning.

4 TIMING

4.1 Annual progress reports will be submitted to Study Group 2.

4.2 A final report will be submitted to Study Group 2.

5 PROPOSERS

United States of America

6 SOURCES OF INPUT

1. Member States, Sector Members, and relevant experts.
2. Examination of regulations, policies, practices in countries that have created systems to manage these matters.
3. Other relevant international organizations.

7 TARGET AUDIENCE

Target audience	Developed countries	Developing countries	Least developed countries (LDCs)
Telecom policy-makers	Yes	Yes	Yes
Telecom regulators	Yes	Yes	Yes
Service providers/operators	Yes	Yes	Yes
Manufacturers	Yes	Yes	Yes
Consumers/end-users	Yes	Yes	Yes
Standards Development Organizations	Yes	Yes	Yes
Testing Laboratories	Yes	Yes	Yes
Certification Bodies	Yes	Yes	Yes
Respective enforcement /market surveillance agencies?			

a) Target audience

Depending on the nature of the output, upper- to middle-level managers in operators, regulators, and ministries in developed, developing and least developed countries will be the predominant users of the output. Compliance managers at equipment manufacturers could also use the output for information.

b) Proposed methods for the implementation of the results

The results of the Question are to be distributed through ITU-D interim and final reports. This will provide a means for the audience to have periodic updates of the work carried out and a means for the audience to provide input and/or seek clarification/more information from the ITU-D Study Group 2 should they need it.

8 PROPOSED METHODS OF HANDLING THE QUESTION OR ISSUE

The Question will be addressed within a study group over a four-year study period (with submission of interim results), and will be managed by a Rapporteur and Vice-Rapporteurs. This will enable Member States and Sector Members to contribute their experiences and lessons they have learned with respect to conformity assessment, type approval and interoperability.

10. COORDINATION

10.1 The ITU-D Study Group dealing with this Question will need to coordinate with:

- Relevant ITU-T Study Groups and particularly Study Group 11
- Relevant focal points in BDT and ITU Regional Offices
- Coordinators of relevant project activities in BDT
- Standards development organizations (SDOs)
- Testing Laboratories and Conformity Assessment Bodies and Industry Consortia
- Consumers/end-users
- Experts in this field

11. BDT PROGRAMME LINK

- WTDC Resolution 47 ([Sharm El-Sheik, 2014])
- WTSA Resolution 76 (Dubai, 2012)
- WTSA Resolution 44 (Dubai, 2012)
- C&I Action Plan Pillars 3 and 4 (C13/24(Rev.1))

Links to BDT programmes designed at human capacity development, assistance to operators in developing and least developed countries, programmes that deal with technical assistance and programmes concerning Conformance & Interoperability.

12. OTHER RELEVANT INFORMATION

As may become apparent within the life of this Question.
