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TITLE: Draft new Question: The ICT industry and telecommunication services at the service of road safety in developing countries

ALG-ATL/18/1 Objective(s): 2

Abstract

This document presents a proposal for a new Question for study during the new BDT study period 2014-2018, namely: “The ICT industry and telecommunication services at the service of road safety in developing countries”. The theme of the Question is an important and priority area for developing countries, which are currently experiencing a public health emergency as a result of the high rate of mortality and disability caused by road traffic accidents. For the coming decade, measures are needed to bring this situation under control, and the action required can be the subject of studies under this Question. Suitable areas for study will include the following:

The technical, economic and regulatory conditions that must be met for a country and its citizens to enjoy the benefits of telecommunication services and ICT applications in the area of road safety.

Theme: The ICT industry and telecommunication services at the service of road safety in developing countries

1 Statement of the situation

in view of

1. the important role that national telecommunication/ICT policy can play in stimulating innovation and investment in new technologies;
2. the sovereign right of each country to establish its national telecommunication/ICT priorities and policies;
3. the importance of telecommunication network and ICT infrastructure for economic development;
4. the potential for a broader range of telecommunication and ICT applications that are made available by, *inter alia*, the new technologies;
5. the high rate of penetration of mobile services in the developing countries as recorded in recent years;

6. the report of the World Health Organization (WHO), according to which road traffic accidents remain a serious public health problem especially in low- and intermediate-income countries, and more action is needed to improve road traffic safety throughout the world; the report also notes that traffic accidents result in 1.3 million deaths and between 20 and 50 million cases of injury every year and are the primary cause of death among young people between the ages of 15 and 44 years, who make up 59 per cent of all road accident fatalities worldwide. Only 28 countries, with 7 per cent of the world's population, have comprehensive road safety legislation covering the main risk factors such as drunk driving, excessive speed, failure of motorcyclists to wear a protective helmet, failure to fasten a seat belt, failure to use child safety devices, and poor road signage and road conditions;

7. the noted absence of legislation on using mobile telephones in vehicles and the assessment of its effects on drivers such as distraction and lack of alertness which can cause accidents;

8. the fact that proliferation of integrated in-vehicle ICTs and nomadic devices, including navigational information and electronic data communications devices, may contribute to driver distraction,

considering that

- the United Nations General Assembly in March 2010 adopted Resolution A/RES/64/255 on improving global road safety, proclaiming the period 2011-2020 as the Decade of Action for Road Safety, with a goal to stabilize and then reduce the forecast level of road traffic fatalities around the world by increasing activities conducted at the regional and global levels;
- in its Resolution 1318, the ITU Council stated that ICTs, including intelligent transport systems (ITS), provide mechanisms for vehicular and passenger safety; and the development of in-vehicle architecture and a Vehicle Gateway Platform (VGP) requires cross-sectoral collaboration within ITU and among World Standards Cooperation (WSC) partners;
- the International Telecommunication Union (ITU) has launched study activities in its different Sectors, notably, in the standardization Sector (ITU-T), on communications while driving, the issue of car driver distraction and aspects of the standardization of intelligent transport systems, and in the Radiocommunication Sector (ITU-R), on transport information and control systems (Recommendation ITU-R M 1453-1), digital broadcasting techniques such as radiocommunication of road traffic information (RDS), and aspects of spectrum management for frequencies allocated to automotive radars;
- the Secretary-General of ITU, in his message on the occasion of the World Telecommunication and Information Society Day 2013 on the theme of "ICTs and improving road safety", made it clear that this topic will in the coming years be the subject of new studies undertaken in partnership with the automobile sector and drivers' associations throughout the world;
- the automobile industry is constantly making technological advances in the protection and safety of vehicle passengers including interactive systems between the driver and on-board communications equipment, and also involving technological development of vehicle to vehicle and vehicle to infrastructure communications systems;

- the development of road infrastructures with systems for displaying and managing road traffic flows using telecommunications and ICT applications (with reference to ISO 39 001 2012 on road safety management – requirements and recommendations for good practices).

2 Question for study

The theme of the Question is an important and priority area for developing countries, which are currently experiencing a public health emergency as a result of the high rate of mortality and disability caused by road traffic accidents. For the coming decade, measures are needed to bring this situation under control, and the action required can be the subject of studies under this Question.

Suitable areas for study will include the following:

1. The technical, economic and regulatory conditions that must be met for a country and its citizens to enjoy the benefits of telecommunication services and ICT applications in the area of road safety.
2. Factors conducive to innovation and industrial integration of appropriate communication technologies to improve safety in the transportation of people and goods in vehicles equipped with them.
3. Development and application of systems for managing and operating road network infrastructures using telecommunications and ICT applications, including for monitoring and regulating road traffic, maintaining emergency service communications and protecting the environment.
4. Creation of a national ecosystem that will include all stakeholders involved in defining national road safety policy.
5. Definition of a regional cooperation and coordination framework in the area of intelligent transport on cross-border networks.

3 Expected outcomes

- Annual progress report on the status of the studies on the each of the five topics listed in section 2 above.
- These thematic reports will be drawn up by the working groups set up for that purpose.
- A detailed final report covering the different topics studied will be produced at the end of the study period. This report will include annexes with recommendations on best practices as regards defining and putting in place national road safety plans incorporating telecommunications and ICT applications, in accordance with the objectives for the period 2011-2020 proclaimed by the United Nations General Assembly as the Decade of Action for Road Safety.

4 Timing

Annual progress reports. This study should take four years.

5 Proposers

Algérie Télécom SPA (Algeria).

6 Source of input

- 1) Results obtained in this area by the ITU-T and ITU-R study groups concerned.
- 2) Contributions from Member States, Sector Members, Associates, other United Nations institutions, regional groups, and BDT coordinators.
- 3) Contributions from service providers and telecommunication/ICT equipment manufacturers.
- 4) Contributions from the automobile industry.
- 5) Contributions from recognized bodies in areas of study and standardization of road transport network infrastructures including main highways.

7 Target audience

	Developed countries	Developing countries*
Telecom policy-makers	*	*
Telecom regulators	*	*
Service providers/operators	*	*
– Telecommunication/ICT equipment manufacturers	*	*
– Automobile industry		

a) Users of the results of the study

National authorities responsible for public works, ministry departments responsible for transport, safety of goods and persons, public health and emergency services, communications and broadcasting, economy and investments, and all stakeholders in the telecommunications/ICT and multimedia sectors.

b) Proposed methods for implementation of the results

- in defining national policies in relation to the Decade of Action for Road Safety 2011-2020;
- in guidelines for implementing BDT regional initiatives.

8 Proposed methods of handling the Question

The results of relevant studies, Resolutions and Recommendations of ITU-T and ITU-R should be the basis for studies under this Question.

- 1) In the work of ITU-D Study Group 2, as a Question studied over a period of four years during the study period 2014-2017.
- 2) As part of the implementation of BDT Programmes 1 and 2 and of BDT regional programmes, a survey will be carried out on the needs of developing countries in the area of road safety.

* This includes least developed countries (LDCs), small island developing states (SIDS), landlocked developing countries (LLDCs) and countries with economies in transition.

3) In collaboration with other United Nations organizations working in this area.

9 Coordination

In order to ensure effective coordination, it is important to take into account:

- the results of work done by study groups in other ITU Sectors; and
- contributions under relevant BDT programmes.

10 BDT Programme link

BDT Programmes 3, 4 and 5 are concerned by the Question in particular as regards aspects relating to an enabling environment, digital inclusion and emergency telecommunications.

11 Other useful information

- Results of relevant studies carried out in developed countries, once they have been made public.
 - Recommendations arising from relevant regional seminars and conferences.
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