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TITLE: Draft new Question (merger of Questions 23/1 and 24/1): Strategies and policies for the humane use of telecommunications/ICT

UKR-ONA/24/1 Objective(s): 2 & 6

1 Introduction

The Plenipotentiary Conference of the International Telecommunication Union, in Annex 2 to Decision 5 (Rev. Guadalajara, 2010), agreed on the need to identify and eliminate possible cases of duplication (functions, activities, workshops, seminars) and the centralization of financial and administrative tasks.

Thus, we can conclude about the feasibility of finding ways to minimize the costs for the ITU operation as a whole and the Telecommunication Development Sector in particular.

One component of the ways of solving this problem is to improve the structure of the Questions examined by the ITU Development Sector study groups.

It should be noted that to date, the ITU Development Sector has two study groups, each of which is responsible for the examination of nine questions. However, some of the Questions of the study groups consider similar problems, or the same problem from different angles.

Obviously, such a number of Questions makes it impossible to conduct sufficiently thorough and high-quality research, and also creates a need for an excessive number of rapporteur group meetings.

In its turn, combining a number of Questions would, on the one hand, lead to a more comprehensive examination of the problems that will improve the quality and effectiveness of study groups, and on the other hand, will help to minimize costs for the ITU Development Sector, as well reducing cost for the Member States and members of the Development Sector of organizing their representation in these study groups and rapporteur groups.

2 Proposal

We propose revising Question 23/1 (Strategies and policies concerning human exposure to electromagnetic fields) by combining it with Question 24/1 (Strategies and policies for the proper disposal or reuse of telecommunications/ICT waste material). We propose that the new Question should be entitled "Strategies and policies for the humane use of telecommunications/ICT".

3 Reasoning

The subject considered from the perspective of these Questions relates to the humane use of telecommunications/ICT in order to counteract their harmful effects on human health and the environment. In particular, both Questions consider strategies aimed at the development of a responsible approach to the use of telecommunications/ICT in close collaboration with ITU-T Study Group 5. Also, both Questions are focused on the study of various regulatory policies to ensure the humane use of telecommunications/ICT, both in relation to the person and in relation to the environment.

Draft new Question (merger of Questions 23/1 and 14/1): Strategies and policies for the humane use of telecommunications/ICT

1 Statement of the situation

The growth of telecommunications/ICT, especially in developing countries, has been exponential in recent years. This has resulted in a considerable increase in the quantity of electrical and electronic equipment and associated peripheral devices.

This rapid growth has caused concern in a section of the population regarding the possible consequences for human health of prolonged exposure to sources of electromagnetic fields, and regarding the increase in telecommunication/ICT waste.

These concerns are growing, a state of affairs encouraged by the fact that the public is poorly informed about the process of deploying new sources of electromagnetic fields and by the low level of recycling and unreliable use of telecommunication/ICT waste.

As a result, given that sustained development of telecommunications/ICT requires public confidence, it is essential to pursue efforts to explore various means of improving public information and knowledge, to promote the deployment and use of sources of electromagnetic fields used in telecommunications/ICT, and to develop methods of regulation in the area of recycling and using telecommunication/ICT waste with a view to preventing major social and environmental problems.

2 Question for study

Study of the Question should focus on the following aspects:

- a) Compiling and analysing the regulatory policies concerning human exposure to electromagnetic fields that are being considered or implemented for authorizing the installation of radiocommunication sites and power lines of telecommunication systems.
- b) Describing the strategies or methods for raising the awareness of populations and information to populations regarding the effects of electromagnetic fields due to radiocommunication systems.
- c) Describing strategies to develop a responsible approach to the problem and comprehensive treatment of telecommunication/ICT waste.

- d) Development of policy and regulatory actions required in developing countries, in close collaboration with ITU-T Study Group 5.
- e) Proposals for guidelines and leading experience in the humane use of telecommunications/ICT in order to counteract their harmful effects on human health and the environment.

3 Expected outcomes

A report to the membership presenting guidelines, recommendations and actions that can be adopted by developing countries in solving analogous problems.

This final report should contain:

- An analysis of methods of regulating the humane use of telecommunications/ICT through laws and regulations.
- An analysis of the technical and organizational aspects of the humane use of telecommunications/ICT.
- A description of methods of raising public awareness of this issue and examples of leading experience in this area.
- Business models and methods of funding designed for developing countries, mainly for their state and regulatory authorities.

4 Timing

A preliminary report should be submitted to the study group in 2016. It is assumed that study of the Question will be completed in 2017, by which time a final report containing guidelines will be submitted.

5 Proposers/sponsors

A.S. Popov Odessa National Academy of Telecommunications (Ukraine), on the basis of the common proposals of the African countries and Colombia's Ministry of Information Technologies and Communications (Administration) adopted at WTDC-10.

6 Source of contributions

- Member States, Sector Members, Associates and academia
- Regional organizations
- ITU Sectors
- World Health Organization
- International Commission on Non-Ionizing Radiation Protection (ICNIRP)
- Institute of Electrical and Electronics Engineers (IEEE)
- BDT focal points.

7 Target audience of study

Target audience	Developed countries	Developing countries ¹
Telecommunication/ICT decision-makers, local authorities	Yes	Yes
Telecommunication/ICT regulators	Yes	Yes
Service providers/operators	Yes	Yes
Constructors/equipment providers	Yes	Yes
Consumers	Yes	Yes

The output of the studies will be disseminated as output from the activities of the ITU-D study groups. Given the importance of the issue, however, BDT might also organize meetings or seminars at regional level, possibly with the collaboration of regional telecommunication organizations, in order to disseminate the output of the study of the Question.

8 Methods proposed for handling the Question

Within the framework of Study Group 1.

9 Coordination

The coordination required will necessitate close cooperation with ITU-R Study Group 1 Working Party 1C and ITU-T Study Group 5 and its working parties, the ITU-D study groups and other international or regional organizations dealing with issues related to the subject.

10 Other useful information

Any other information that may become available during the period of validity of the Question.

¹ These includes the least developed countries (LDCs), small island developing states (SIDS), landlocked developing countries (LLDCs) and countries with economies in transition.