

Document WTDC14/25-E
5 February 2014
Original: Russian

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TITLE: Draft new Question(Merger of Questions 14-3/2 and 17-3/2): Information and telecommunications/ICT for development of the information society

UKR-ONA/25/1 Objective(s): 3

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 on the centralization of financial and administrative tasks.

It is thus appropriate to look for ways and means of minimizing the costs of ITU's operations as a whole and those of the Telecommunication Development Sector in particular. One of the ways of addressing this issue is to improve the structure of the Questions examined by the ITU Development Sector study groups.

The ITU Development Sector currently has two study groups, each being responsible for the examination of nine Questions. However, some of those Questions consider similar issues, or the same issue from different angles.

Obviously, such a large number of Questions makes it impossible to conduct sufficiently thorough and high-quality research, while at the same time necessitating an excessive number of rapporteur group meetings.

Combining a number of Questions would, on the one hand, lead to a more comprehensive examination of the issues, thereby enhancing the quality and effectiveness of the study groups, and, on the other hand, help to minimize costs for the ITU Development Sector while also reducing the cost for Member States and Development Sector Members of organizing their representation in the study groups and rapporteur groups.

2 Proposal

We propose revising Question 14-3/2 (Information and telecommunications/ICTs for e-Health) by combining it with Question 17-3/2 (Progress on e-government activities and identification of areas of application of e-government for the benefit of developing countries).

We propose that the new combined Question be entitled "Information and telecommunications/ICT for development of the information society".

3 Reasoning

The aforementioned Questions are concerned with two basic components of information society development. Both Questions essentially focus on the progress being made in the use of telecommunications/ICT in the areas most relevant to developing countries (i.e. the electronic aspects of healthcare and government). The structure of both Questions involves a comprehensive investigation of the potential benefits of these spheres and a study of modern technology and software platforms for the provision of services in the fields of e-government and e-health.

It would also be expedient to extend this approach into other spheres such as e-education, e-commerce, and so on.

Draft new Question (merger of Questions 14-3/2 and 17-3/2): Information and telecommunications/ICT for development of the information society

1 Statement of the situation

In conditions of transition from an industrial to an information society, the development of new areas of science has become a particular concern of States. The functioning of the State as a whole, in the form of its social, political, economic, industrial and military spheres, now depends directly on the computer and IT systems, communication and control systems, and software, which form the technical foundation of the information space.

The informatization of society is bringing about a profound change in people's values. All areas of infrastructure – culture and education, tourism and healthcare, transport and trade – will depend for their development on the advances made through the IT revolution, and will use infocommunication systems and services in their activities.

At the heart of the informatization of today's society are new technologies and the associated applications which have come to be known as "e-governance", "e-entrepreneurship", "e-education", "e-health", and so on.

ITU-D, in collaboration and partnership with the private sector and other UN system organizations, carries out studies on the use of telecommunications/ICTs in the various facets of information society development.

In order to take advantage of the potential benefits of the progress that has been made, developing countries require information on strategies, best practices, sources of expertise and financial support, as well as on the type of applications and technological platforms for e-government and other spheres that would provide the most benefits to their citizens, based on the country's needs and current capabilities.

2 Question for study

1) Evaluation of progress in e-government, e-entrepreneurship, e-education and e-health activities in the world, and identification of areas with the highest value for developing countries, including the use of mobile and wireless platforms for the provision and payment of services in rural and remote areas.

- 2) Assistance in raising the awareness of decision-makers, regulators, telecommunication operators, service providers and customers about the role of information and telecommunication technologies in improving governance mechanisms, healthcare delivery, educational services, and so on, in developing countries.
- 3) Collaboration and commitment between the telecommunication, state administration, education and healthcare sectors in developing countries in order to maximize the mutual utilization of limited resources for implementing e-government, e-entrepreneurship, e-education and e-health services. Dissemination of experiences and best practices with the use of information and telecommunication technologies for the development of the information society in developing countries.
- 4) Cooperation among developing and developed countries with respect to solutions and services in the above-mentioned spheres through the use of mobile communication technologies. Promotion of the development of technical standards for the application of e-government, e-entrepreneurship, e-education, and e-health, in conjunction with ITU-T. In particular, development of guidelines for developing countries on how to use such standards.
- 5) Introduction and dissemination of ITU technical standards related to the above-mentioned spheres for developing countries.

3 Expected output

The output expected from this Question will include:

- Guidelines on how to draft the telecommunication/ICT part of the master plan for the development of e-government, e-entrepreneurship, e-education and e-health.
- Guidelines with regard to the use of mobile telecommunications for e-government, e-entrepreneurship, e-education and e-health solutions in developing countries.
- Collection and summarization of data on the requirements and effectiveness of telecommunication/infrastructure for the successful implementation of e-government, e-entrepreneurship, e-education and e-health applications, taking into account the environment of developing countries.
- Dissemination of the technical standard related to the introduction of e-government, e-entrepreneurship, e-education and e-health services in developing countries.
- Collaboration with ITU-T study groups in order to accelerate the development of technical standards for e-government, e-entrepreneurship, e-education and e-health applications.
- Sharing and dissemination of best practice in the areas of e-government, e-entrepreneurship, e-education and e-health applications in developing countries, using the ITU/BDT website.
- Annual progress reports containing any guidelines and any practical experience acquired in the areas of e-government, e-entrepreneurship, e-education and e-health in developed and developing countries.

4 Timing

A preliminary report should be submitted to the study group in 2016. The studies should be concluded in 2017, by which time a final report containing guidelines will be submitted.

5 Proposers

A.S. Popov Odessa National Academy of Telecommunications (Ukraine), on the basis of Question 14-3, which was first approved by WTDC-98 and subsequently revised by WTDC-02, WTDC-06 and WTDC-10, and also using material from Question 17-3/2.

6 Sources of input

- a) Progress on study of the Questions relevant to this issue by ITU-T study groups.
- b) Progress of the BDT initiatives with other UN organizations and the private sector on e-government, e-entrepreneurship, e-education and e-health services and applications, with emphasis on the participation of developing countries.
- c) Progress on any other relevant activity carried out by the ITU General Secretariat or BDT.
- d) Progress reports and case studies from Member States and Sector Members on initiatives, applications or technologies developed that could be of use for the provision of e-government, e-entrepreneurship, e-education and e-health applications.

7 Target audience

Target audience	Developed countries	Developing countries
Telecommunication policy-makers	Yes	Yes
Telecommunication regulators	Yes	Yes
Service providers/operators	Yes	Yes
Manufacturers	Yes	Yes
Interested organizations	Yes	Yes

Telecommunication policy-makers and telecommunication regulators will receive the study outputs every year so that they can direct their national policies towards promoting the use of e-government, e-entrepreneurship, e-education and e-health applications.

8 Proposed methods of handling the Question

Within Study Group 2.

9 Coordination

- The relevant BDT unit dealing with information society development.
- Relevant work in progress in the other two ITU Sectors.

10 Other relevant information

To be identified later during the life of this revised Question.