

World Telecommunication Development Conference (WTDC-14)

Dubai, 30 March – 10 April 2014



Document WTDC14/26-E

5 February 2014

Original: Russian

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TITLE: Draft new Question (merger of Questions 22-1/2 and 24/2): Use of telecommunications/ICTs for disaster preparedness and climate change, mitigation and response

UKR-ONA/26/1 Objective(s): 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 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 22-1/2 (Utilization of telecommunications/ICTs for disaster preparedness, mitigation and response) by combining it with Question 24/2 (ICT and climate change).

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We propose that the new combined Question be entitled “Use of telecommunications/ICTs for disaster preparedness and climate change, mitigation and response”.

3 Reasoning

These Questions are aimed at studying the relationship between ICTs and climate change and evaluating the ways in which ICTs can help in addressing the global challenges associated with climate change and other disasters, including mitigation and response issues. Both Questions call for consideration of terrestrial, space-based and integrated telecommunications/ICTs for assisting affected countries through appropriate applications for disaster prediction, detection, monitoring, response and relief, and for Earth observation for climate change, as determined through the implementation of Resolution 673 ITU-R (Radiocommunication use for Earth observation applications).

Draft new Question (merger of Questions 22-1/2 and 24/2): Use of telecommunications/ICTs for disaster preparedness and climate change, mitigation and response

1 Statement of the situation

In light of recent natural and man-made disasters, great attention and effort has been directed towards the application of telecommunications/ICTs for the purpose of natural-disaster and climate-change preparedness, mitigating the consequences of such phenomena and conducting response and recovery operations.

In spite of the active work being done by ITU Member States and Sector Members and by relevant international, regional and non-governmental organizations in providing telecommunication/ICT equipment and services, expertise and capacity-building assistance to support disaster relief and recovery activities, as well as in identifying ways and means of monitoring climate change with the aid of ICTs and of using ICTs in efforts to reduce the overall volume of greenhouse gas emissions, developing countries continue to require support in developing their expertise in those areas.

2 Question for study

2.1 Examination of terrestrial, space-based and integrated telecommunications/ICTs to assist affected countries with utilizing relevant applications for disaster prediction, detection, monitoring response and relief, including consideration of best practices/guidelines in implementation, and of the role of ITU-D in assisting administrations with ensuring a favourable regulatory environment to enable implementation of relevant technologies.

2.2 Examination of the role played by administrations, Sector Members and non-governmental organizations in addressing disaster management and the effective use of telecommunications/ICTs.

2.3 Examination of how telecommunications/ICTs can be integrated into disaster management plans or frameworks for use in natural and man-made disaster and/or emergency situations, including the consideration of telecommunication outside plant, taking into account the work of BDT Programmes 1 and 5.

2.4 Development of a methodology for the implementation of this Question, in particular the gathering of evidence and information regarding current best practices for reducing overall global greenhouse gas emissions, taking into consideration the progress achieved by ITU-T and ITU-R in this regard.

2.5 Consideration of the role of Earth observation in climate change, as determined through the implementation of ITU-R Resolution 673 (Radiocommunications use for Earth observation applications), in order to enhance the knowledge and understanding of developing countries in the utilization and benefits of relevant applications in connection with climate change.

2.6 Development of best-practice guidelines for the implementation of relevant Recommendations adopted by ITU-T as a result of the implementation of Resolution 73 (Dubai, 2012), both for monitoring climate change and reducing its impact using the action plan of Resolution 44 (Rev. Dubai, 2012), in particular programmes 1, 2, 3 and 4 thereof.

3 Expected output

The expected output will be a report or reports on the results of the work conducted for each step above, together with one or more Recommendations, as appropriate.

4 Timing

4.1 Annual progress reports should be submitted to ITU-D Study Group 2.

4.2 Draft final reports and any proposed draft Recommendations/guidelines should be submitted to ITU-D Study Group 2 within four years.

4.3 The Rapporteur Group will work in close collaboration with BDT on relevant ITU-D Questions and with due liaison with ITU-R and ITU-T.

4.4 The activities of the Rapporteur Group will come to an end within four years.

5 Proposers

A.S. Popov Odessa National Academy of Telecommunications (Ukraine), on the basis of Questions 22-1/2 and 24/2, approved by WTDC-10.

6 Sources of input

Contributions are expected from Member States, Sector Members, Associates and academic entities, as well as inputs from BDT, relevant ITU-R and ITU-T study groups and any relevant ITU-D Questions. International and regional organizations responsible for disaster and emergency telecommunications are encouraged to provide contributions related to experiences and best practices. The intensive use of correspondence and online exchange of information is encouraged for additional sources of inputs.

7 Target audience

Target audience	Developed countries	Developing countries ¹
Telecommunication policy-makers	Yes	Yes
Telecommunication regulators	Yes	Yes
Service providers/operators	Yes	Yes
Manufacturers	Yes	Yes

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

a) Target audience

Depending on the nature of the outputs, their predominant users will be upper- to middle-level managers in operators and regulators in developed and developing countries.

b) Proposed methods for the implementation of the results

The results of the Question are to be distributed through ITU-D reports, or as agreed during the study period in order to address the Question for study.

8 Proposed methods of handling the Question

Within ITU-D Study Group 2.

9 Coordination

The ITU D study group dealing with this Question will need to coordinate with:

- relevant focal points in BDT
- relevant ITU-R and ITU-T study groups
- the Working Group on Emergency Telecommunications (WGET)
- relevant international, regional and scientific organizations with mandates corresponding to this Question.

10 Other relevant information

As may become apparent within the life of this Question.
