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Report by the Secretary-General

CONFORMANCE AND INTEROPERABILITY PROGRAMME STATUS REPORT AND PROPOSED ACTION PLAN

Summary

This document summarizes the status of implementation of ITU's conformance and interoperability programme and presents an action plan based on KPMG's business plan.

Action required

The Council is requested to **discuss** the document and **approve** the proposed action plan.

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References

Resolution 177 (Guadalajara, 2010); Resolution 76 (Johannesburg, 2008); Resolution 47 (Hyderabad, 2010); Resolution 62 (Geneva, 2012)
Website "ITU Conformance and interoperability Portal"
Documents C12/37 "General conclusions and executive summary of the final report: provision of a business plan for conformance and interoperability by KPMG" *(executive summary); C12/INF/7: Final Report - Provision of a Business Plan for conformance and interoperability*

1 Conformance and Interoperability Programme

The conformance and interoperability programme (Resolution 177, Guadalajara 2010) is based on four pillars:

1. Conformity assessment
2. Interoperability events
3. Capacity building
4. Establishment of test centres in developing countries.

Actions 1 and 2 are led by the Telecommunication Standardization Bureau (TSB), actions 3 and 4 by the Telecommunication Development Bureau (BDT).

2 Status report since Council 11

2.1 ITU conformity assessment

A series of meetings have been held with key accreditation and certification experts. An MoU was signed with ILAC (International Laboratory Accreditation Cooperation) and IAF (International Accreditation Forum). It is envisaged to establish agreements and procedures to have "ITU recognized" testing laboratories according to international standards and in collaboration with accreditation bodies (ILAC, IAF, IECEE, Worldwide System for Conformity Testing and Certification of Electrotechnical Equipment and Components).

TSB started discussions with study groups to identify key technologies that could be run as a pilot for the conformity assessment programme, in particular on timing and synchronization of packet-based networks in ITU-T Study Group 15.

2.2 Showcasing of ITU-T Recommendations

Two showcasing events on ITU's IPTV standards took place (Dubai, September 2011; ITU Telecom, Geneva, October 2011). The winners of the first ITU IPTV Application Challenge demonstrated their applications at ITU Telecom. ITU participated in the first transcontinental IPTV experiment on the occasion of the Sapporo Snow Festival in Japan, February 2012. IPTV showcasing took place during TSAG in January 2012, the joint ITU-WHO e-health workshop and ITU-T SG 16 meeting in April 2012.

2.3 Capacity building

The following events were dedicated exclusively to C&I:

a) ITU Regional Seminar for the CIS Countries on Conformance and Interoperability Testing Center (s), Moscow (Russian Federation), 9-11 November 2011
b) ITU Forum on Conformance and Interoperability for the Americas and Caribbean Region, Brasilia 12-15 June 2012

Contacts have been established with CINTEL (Centro de Investigación de las telecomunicaciones) in Colombia, NYCE (Normalización y Certificación Electrónica) in Mexico and CPqD in Brazil, CERT in Tunisia and Sintesio in Slovenia in order to prepare the ground to a fruitful cooperation to develop test suites for ITU-T Recommendations.

ITU has signed MoUs with CERT (Research and Studies Telecommunication Center, Tunisia) and Sintesio (Slovenia) for conducting C&I training (e.g. mobile, Broadcasting, NGN). The training will be conducted for African and Arab countries in 2012, for the other regions in 2013 and 2014.

2.4 Test facilities in developing countries

A number of countries have expressed strong interest in establishing regional test centres. ITU will assist these countries but due to the complexity and cost associated with test centres ITU calls upon the regional organisations to assist in identifying the location of regional test centres.

ITU has produced a set of guidelines on building testing labs for conformance and interoperability of equipment and systems in developing countries (available here).

The guidelines include the following topics: the process required for building testing labs; a site analysis (e.g. existing testing labs, knowhow); an economic analysis; financing and training opportunities; collaboration mechanisms; best practices; reference standards and ITU Recommendations.

The ITU Secretariat is also discussing with UNIDO, ILAC and IAF (International Accreditation Forum) how they could assist in the establishment of ICTs test centres.

Contacts have also been established with IECEE, and ICONTEC and INMETRO (accreditation bodies in Colombia and Brazil respectively) regarding the recognition of test labs.

2.5 ITU Conformity and Interoperability Portal

The website (ITU C&I Portal) has been updated and contains detailed information on all four pillars including concepts, cooperation with external bodies and information on testing laboratories.

2.6 Discussion of Conformance and Interoperability in ITU-R

In January 2012, the Assembly of ITU's Radiocommunication Sector approved Resolution ITU-R 62 "Studies related to testing for conformance with ITU-R Recommendations and interoperability of radiocommunication equipment and systems", resolving "that ITU-R collaborate with, and provide information when requested by, ITU-T and ITU-D on conformance and interoperability testing within its existing mandate consistent with Resolution 177 (Guadalajara, 2010)".

3 Business plan

Resolution 177 (Guadalajara, 2010) instructs the Director TSB "to prepare a business plan for the long-term implementation of this resolution". A call for tender was issued (Council-11 INF/14), and KPMG, a consultancy, selected. KPMG's business plan for 2012 – 2016 is presented in Document C12/37 (Executive Summary) and in document C12/INF/7.

KPMG estimates that the total resources of the ITU Secretariat needed for the five-year period 2012 – 2016 amounts to CHF 5 – 8 million, depending on the scenarios (base scenario vs. progressive scenario for each of the two pillars).

The ITU Secretariat estimates the delta, i.e., the difference between KPMG's total estimate of required resources and the C&I resources that the ITU Secretariat is already investing, as follows:

- **2012-2013 budget:**

Delta for base scenario: no additional resources required

- **2014-2015 budget:**

Delta for base scenario: + 495 kCHF (= 165 kCHF pillar 1&2 + 330 kCHF pillar 3&4)

Delta for progressive scenario: + 1.650 kCHF (= 1155 kCHF pillar 1&2 + 495 kCHF pillar 3&4)

4 Proposed C&I Action Plan

As KPMG proposes variuos scenarios and options, the following focused C&I action plan is proposed.

4.1 Pillar 1 – Conformity Assessment

a) ITU-T to decide whether to follow KPMG's recommendation to drop route 4 (vendor self-declaration, i.e., not 3rd party testing) to populate the conformity database. WTSA to identify the appropriate study group to address horizontal issues such as this.
b) ITU-T to run a pilot of the conformity assessment programme for key technologies for which there is a market demand for such a programme. A test lab or certification body would execute tests. Given a vendor's agreement, an entry would then be made in the ITU-T conformity database. TSB is in discussions with ITU-T SG 15.

c) ITU-T study groups to identify further technologies for which there is a market demand for a conformity assessment programme and to identify whether test specifications are available and if not, to explore the provision of test specifications. If test specifications are available, they may be turned into e.g. ITU-T Recommendations or supplements.
d) TSB to gather information from members, vendors, labs, SDOs, Forums and Consortia about labs and to invite them to join the ITU C&I Programme.
e) TSB to produce a report on measures against counterfeiting (not a KPMG recommendation but Resolution 177 instructs the TSB Director "to assist Member States in addressing their concerns with respect to counterfeit equipment")

4.2 Pillar 2 – ITU Interops

a) TSB to consult study groups towards identifying and suggesting topics for future events, based on continuous surveillance of market and technological developments and on probing of members' needs, and organize those events. In addition to organizing further ITU interops on IPTV and G.hn, discussions are taking place to organize interops on multimedia conferencing (IMTC's (International Multimedia Teleconferencing Consortium) "Superop" event which tests among others the ITU-T SG 16 H-series); QoS aspects (ITU-T SG 12); e-health (with Continua Health Alliance; ITU-T SG 16).

4.3 Pillar 3 – Capacity building (ref. 4.7.3 KPMG – RF)

a) BDT, in collaboration with TSB, to continue to offer C&I training courses. The ITU Regional Offices will play an active role for identify the right partners in the field and for organizing such training activities.

4.4 Pillar 4 – Creation of test labs in the regions

a) The ITU Secretariat to continue to promote, through cooperation agreements and MoUs, partnerships with external organizations for assisting countries in addressing the establishment of an appropriate conformity and interoperability regime in such countries.
b) To organize experts meetings at regional and subregional level for promoting awareness in developing countries for establishing the most appropriate C&I regime in such countries. The strategy is to create a network-like test centres in the regions building up on existing labs, to reduce costs, and to encourage agreements to assign to each centre a specific technology in order to cover most of them among all the participating labs.
c) The establishment, when possible, of MRAs (mutual recognition agreement) will be also discussed at regional and subregional levels. ITU will produce a set of guidelines on "Mutual recognition agreement/arrangement framework for regulated telecommunications products". Such an MRA framework could be applied e.g. for the African region, with ITU as the repository of signatories and an organization such as ATU, or other appropriate body, as the "convening body" for the MRA development. The ITU Regional Offices will play an active role for discussing the establishment of MRAs between countries.

4.5 Pillars 1-4

a) The ITU Secretariat to develop and formalize a partnership strategy. Potential partners for further cooperation agreements/MoUs include e.g. IECEE, UNIDO, IQNet, DAKKS, ONAC, ANSI, INMETRO, ANATEL, KAS, COFRAC, ICONTEC, NYCE, CERT, CPqD, CTTL, ZNIIS, COPANT.
b) ITU to participate at events of IEC, ISO, ILAC, IAF, BIPM, DCMAS, ISO/CASCO etc.

c) ITU to continue organizing regional C&I forums and organize 1-2 sessions as part of the WTSA-12 preparatory meetings, workshops or back to back with events of regional organizations (CITEL, CIS, ARB, ATU, CITEL, APT, CTO, PITA).
d) ITU Secretariat to continue enhancing the ITU C&I Portal.
e) ITU to organize a (perhaps annual) Conformity Assessment, Certification and Accreditation Bodies “All Star” Forum for ITU-ICTs technologies.
f) ITU Secretariat to produce C&I promotion material.
g) ITU Secretariat to study potential revenue generation.
h) ITU Secretariat to ensure succession planning.
i) Secretary-General to take resources on C&I into account when developing the 2014-2015 budget.
j) ITU Secretariat to provide an update of the C&I programme at the next Council meeting.

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