

Agenda item: PL 1.4

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Report by the Secretary-General

CONFORMANCE AND INTEROPERABILITY PROGRAMME STATUS REPORT AND ACTION PLAN

Summary

This document summarizes the status of implementation of ITU's conformance and interoperability programme since Council 2013.

Action required

The Council is requested to **note** the document and to **instruct** the TSB Director to report to PP-14 on any further developments between Council 2014 and PP-14, as appropriate.

References

PP Resolution 177 (Guadalajara, 2010); WTS Resolution 76 (Dubai, 2012); WTDC Resolution 47 (Hyderabad, 2010); RA Resolution ITU-R 62 (Geneva, 2012)
Website "ITU Conformance and interoperability Portal" and Conformance and Interoperability for Developing Countries; C13/24(Rev.1)

1 Introduction

1.1 Resolution 177 (Guadalajara, 2010) on Conformance and Interoperability was initially adopted at PP-10 following the initial adoption of Resolution 76 by WTS-08 and Resolution 47 of WTDC-10. Resolution ITU-R 62 was adopted by RA in 2012. Resolution 76 was updated by WTS-12 and Resolution 47 was updated by WTDC-14 (Dubai 2014). Related activities are covered in [C09/28](#), [C10/35 \(para 65\)](#), [C11/38](#), [C12/48](#) and [C13/24\(Rev.1\)](#).

1.2 The ITU conformance and interoperability (C&I) programme mandated by PP-10 Resolution 177 is based on four pillars: Pillar 1: Conformity assessment; Pillar 2: Interoperability events; Pillar 3: Capacity building; and Pillar 4: Assistance in the establishment of test centres and C&I programmes in developing countries.

1.3 Actions of Pillar 1 and 2 are led by the Telecommunication Standardization Bureau (TSB), actions of Pillar 3 and 4 by the Telecommunication Development Bureau (BDT). ITU-R continues to collaborate with, and provide information when requested by, ITU-T and ITU-D on C&I testing, as mentioned in the 'resolves' part of Resolution ITU-R 62.

2 WTDC-14 outcome on C&I

The [Dubai Declaration](#) recognized that conformance and interoperability of telecommunication/ ICT equipment and systems can increase market opportunities and reliability and encourage global integration and trade. [Resolution 47](#) was amended, reaffirming the importance of collaboration and coordination between the three ITU Bureaux in implementing the ITU C&I programme, and a new ITU-D [Study Group question on C&I](#) for the ITU-D study period 2014-2018 was approved with the following mandate: reporting on technical, legislative and regulatory framework that would be needed to implement appropriate C&I programmes by developing countries. Specifically, the following outputs are envisaged: a) Harmonized Guidelines on technical, legal and regulatory aspects of C&I Regime; b) Feasibility studies regarding establishment of laboratories in different C&I Domains; c) Guidance on the framework and procedures to establish MRA; d) C&I Regimes, case studies established at national, regional or global levels; e) Development of a methodology for assessing the situation of C&I regimes in place in the regions (or sub regions); f) Experience sharing and case studies reports on C&I programmes implementation.

C&I is also part of the Outcomes of Objective 2, Output 2.2 of the [Dubai Action Plan](#), focusing on the following issues: a) educating technicians, policy-makers and businesses on the importance of C&I procedures and testing, mobilizing the resources required to implement regional and national C&I programmes, in cooperation with other relevant regional and international organizations; b) providing assistance to developing countries in the establishment of national, regional or sub-regional C&I programmes, and conducting assessment studies for facilitating the establishment of common conformance and interoperability regimes at national, regional and sub-regional level; c) preparing guidelines on this process which outline the technical and human resources required and the international standards to be applied.

3 Past and future activities on the implementation of the ITU C&I Action Plan

An Action Plan to implement the ITU C&I Programme was updated at Council 2013 as contained in section 4 of [C13/24\(Rev.1\)](#). Below please find the summary of actions taken in response to the Action Plan. The labeling of the sections (a, b, c, etc.) refers to the labeling of the Action Plan in [C13/24\(Rev.1\)](#).

3.1 Pillar 1 – Conformity Assessment

a) ITU-T SG11 is inviting contributions from the ITU membership on the self-declaration of Conformity (SDoC) issue.

b) A conformance testing pilot project on “network management interface related Recommendations (ITU-T M.3170 series)” was launched by ITU-T SG11 in its WP4/11 meeting in November 2013 in collaboration with ITU-T SG2. This pilot project is foreseen to be completed in 2015. Test specifications related to the ITU-T M.3170 series will be developed by ITU-T SG2. Experience gained by this pilot project would be input to the work of the Q11/11 correspondence group on “collaboration between ITU-T and Testing Laboratories for ITU C&I Programme” (see action item *d*) below).

c) Based on input received from ITU-T SGs in the last study period, ITU-T SG11’s February 2013 meeting developed a living list of Recommendations and related specifications within key technologies suitable for conformance and interoperability testing and a reference table listing ITU-T Recommendations which are under ICT industry testing practice, and requested all ITU-T SGs to continue updating this living list and reference table. ITU-T SG11 has received feedback/inputs from ITU-T SG15 (September 2012), SG16 (November 2013), SG12 (December 2013), SG9 (December 2013), SG5 (December 2013) and SG17 (January 2014).

d) The ITU-T WP4/11 meeting in November 2013 discussed a proposal (C97) to establish an ITU recognition procedure of testing laboratories with competence in ITU-T Recommendations, and decided to establish a new work item Q.TL-rec-pro and a Correspondence Group (CG) on “collaboration between ITU-T and testing laboratories for ITU C&I programme” under Q11/11.

The ITU secretariat shared the progress report of ITU’s C&I Programme with relevant international bodies in the field of conformity assessment such as IEC, ISO, ILAC and IAF. The TSB Director visited ANSI in December 2013 and invited ANSI to consider increased collaboration with ITU as some ANSI accredited test centres have been accredited to test ITU-T standards, such as involving these test centres in the ITU C&I Programme, and providing training and capacity building.

IEC runs three Conformity Assessment Systems (IECEE, IECEx and IECQ), each of which operates schemes based on third-party conformity assessment certification. The IECEE Scheme was presented to ITU-T SG11 and SG13 in February 2013 and in a session at TSAG July 2013. The IECEx Scheme has been adopted by the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (UNECE) in 2010 as the recommended common regulatory framework for equipment used in environments with an explosive atmosphere. Discussions between TSB Director and IEC General Secretary reveal possible mutually beneficial solutions for the implementation of pillar 1 of the ITU C&I programme through the IEC schemes.

e) ITU-T SG11 started a new work item “Technical Report on Counterfeit Equipment”. A workshop on this topic is being planned.

3.2 Pillar 2 – ITU Interops

a) An interoperability event on NGN and IPTV was jointly organized by ITU and APT on 9-12 September 2013. Findings of this interoperability testing event were fed back to ITU-T SG11 to improve relevant testing specifications of ITU-T NGN standards. This event also served to promote the adoption of NGN based on ITU-T standards in developing countries from the Asia-Pacific region. An e-health showcasing event was organized in partnership with Continua Health Alliance on 28-31 October 2013 during the ITU-T SG16 meeting to demonstrate the latest e-health products based on Recommendation ITU-T H.810.

A testing event to assess the performance of mobile phones of their narrowband and/or wideband communications with vehicle-mounted hands-free terminals according to Chapter 12 of Recommendations ITU-T P.1100 and ITU-T P.1110 is planned for May 2014.

In discussion is a joint ITU-T/G3-Alliance interop to test ITU-T G.9903 (“Narrowband orthogonal frequency division multiplexing power line communication transceivers for G3-PLC networks”).

a.3 Pillar 3 – Capacity building

a) In 2013, the following training courses on C&I testing focused on theory and practice of electromagnetic compatibility (EMC): 1) Arab Regions, 2-6 April 2013, Tunis (Tunisia); 2) Americas Region, 24-28 June 2013, Campinas (Brazil); 3) Africa Region, 28 October-1 November 2013, Tunis (Tunisia).

These training events covered overview of test equipment and test setup, new approaches and directives, EMC fundamentals, international standards, case study of ITU-T K.43 and ITU-T K.48 and practical measurements in laboratory.

The C&I training events scheduled for 2014 will address procedures on the establishment of C&I programmes and laboratory experience on type approval of mobile terminals: 1) ARB region: Tunis, 17-21 March 2014; 2) AMS region (Spanish): Campinas, 5-9 May 2014; 3) AFR region: Tunis, 23-27 June 2014; 4) AMS region (English): August 2014; 5) CIS region: Moscow, September 2014.

3.4 Pillar 4 – Establishment of test centres and C&I programmes in developing countries

a) The ITU secretariat has signed MoUs for collaboration for the implementations of the C&I programme with CERT (Tunisia), CPqD (Brazil), Sintesio (Slovenia), Tilab (Telecom Italia), ZNIIS (Russia), International Accreditation Forum (IAF), and International Laboratory Accreditation Cooperation (ILAC), and continues to look for interested partners in the regions. Since 2013, ITU has been providing assistance to Mongolia, Iraq, and Sri Lanka for addressing specific national or regional challenges and a roadmap for implementation reviewing their C&I programmes for type approval of ICT products

In 2013, an assessment study to promote the establishment of a common C&I programme was conducted for SADC Region (15 countries). Similar assessments studies is ongoing for Maghreb Region (5 countries) and planned for other Regions in the coming years. The study covers regulation, institutions, laboratories and type approval procedures of ICT products.

b) The ITU secretariat produced a “Feasibility Study for the establishment of a Conformance Testing Centre” (December 2013). This feasibility study describes environments, procedures and methodologies to be adopted to establish, manage and maintain a testing center covering different kind of conformance and interoperability testing areas. Different type approval testing domains (e.g. electromagnetic compatibility, safety, fixed and mobile networks, broadcast) are considered ([link](#)). The ITU secretariat is producing a set of “Guidelines for Establishing Conformance and Interoperability Regimes for Developing Countries” (to be finalized during 2014). They will be made available soon through the ITU website ([a Basic version](#) is already available online).

The ITU Secretariat continues collaborating with [UNIDO](#), [ILAC](#), [IAF](#) and [IEC](#) to learn about best practices that can assist in the establishment or partnerships among ICT test centres.

c) The ITU secretariat produced “Guidelines for the development, implementation and management of mutual recognition arrangements/agreements (MRAs) on conformity assessment” (October 2013) ([link](#)). These guidelines aim at promoting the understanding and establishment of MRA, known as efficient tools to promote regional integration. Through sharing and efficient use of Conformance and Interoperability (C&I) infrastructures – as laboratories, accreditation bodies and regulatory practices – technical requirements can be harmonized and the transit of ICT goods and services can be facilitated, increasing trade and regional development.

3.5 Pillars 1-4

a) + b) ITU signed MoUs for the implementations of the C&I programme, see 2.4 a) above.

c) ITU organized jointly with UNIDO a forum on “Sustainable Conformity Assessment for Asia-Pacific Region” on 25-27 November 2013 in Yangon (Myanmar) to discuss policies and implementation strategies to establish standardization and conformity assessment infrastructure in developing economies, especially for telecommunication/ICT sectors.

d) The website ([ITU C&I Portal](#)) is continuously updated with progress to implement this Council approved C&I Action Plan for all four pillars, including [training events and guidelines](#) as well as the activities in ITU-T SG11 and the other study groups.

e) Under the lead of IEC, WSC will organize a WSC Conformity Assessment workshop in Q1/Q2/2015 to enhance awareness of global conformity assessment.
