
Agenda item: PL1.1 i)

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Note by the Secretary-General

CONTRIBUTION FROM THE UNITED ARAB EMIRATES
WORKING DEFINITION OF THE TERM “ICT”

I have the honour to transmit to the Member States of the Council a contribution received from the **United Arab Emirates**.

Dr Hamadoun I. TOURE
Secretary-General

Contribution from the United Arab Emirates

Working Definition of the term “ICT”

Background:

PP Resolution 140 (Rev. Guadalajara, 2010) requests the Council “to elaborate through the Sector study groups and submit a working definition of the term ‘ICT’ to the Council and working groups of the Council, for possible transmission to the next plenipotentiary conference”. Council Resolution 1332 further instructs the Secretary-General and the Directors of the Bureaux to elaborate this working definition.

In this regard, Council 2011 instructed the Director of BDT “to conduct consultations with the chairmen of ITU-D study groups and TDAG for the creation of a group for elaboration of a working definition of the term ‘ICT’ open for the participation of other Sector membership, and the Directors of BR and TSB to conduct consultations with the chairmen of ITU-R and ITU-T study groups, RAG and TSAG regarding the participation of representatives of their Sector study groups in that activity and report to the Council session 2012.”

The Correspondence Group, chaired and convened by Ms Roxanne McElvane, Chair of ITU-D SG 1 and co-convened by Prof Vladimir Minkin, Chair of TDAG, concluded its work on 8 September 2013 and agreed on a working definition of the term “ICT” as below:

Technologies and equipment that handle (e.g., access, create, collect, store, transmit, receive, disseminate) information and communication.

The above definition was also presented to WTDC-14 under Document WTDC14/4-E and deliberations which occurred during WTDC-14 also agreed to send this definition to ITU Council which will decide on the next steps for the working definition on “ICT”. It was also noted that any further comments in this regard can be sent directly to Council-14.

The definition of Telecommunication as per CS 1012 is as below:

CS 1012 Telecommunication: Any transmission, emission or reception of signs, signals, writing, images and sounds or intelligence of any nature by wire, radio, optical or other electromagnetic systems

The report of the correspondence group to the ITU Council 2014 is presented in C14/46.

Proposal

The United Arab Emirates, after reviewing the report of the correspondence group appreciates the hard work and effort put in by the correspondence group and all participating entities and Administrations in reaching a working definition of the terms ICT.

However this Administration has the following views:

1. The Liaison statement of Director TSB, ITU-T Study Group 12 and ITU-T Study Group 2 which were sent to TDAG highlights various concerns indicating that the working definition requires more refinements.
2. The comments of RAG and Coordination Committee for Vocabulary (CCV) from the Radio communication Bureau (BR) on this working definition are not available.
3. The specific guidelines for determining a working definition of ICT as per 3.2 and 3.3 of the report are fundamental principles of the definition; it is not clear whether they will be reflected along with the definition as a footnote or citation.
4. The objective of the definition of ICT is confined to the use in the recommendations and resolutions of each ITU sector and it is envisioned that single agreed definition should cover the scope of the entire ITU activities related to ICT.
5. The terms “telecommunications/ICT” or “telecommunication/ICT services” are widely used in the Resolutions of the Plenipotentiary Conference and in Resolutions of WTSAs and WTDCs. The use of the working definition of ICT in such scenario requires further analysis.

Foregoing the above, the UAE Administration is of the view that the definition of ICT is a work in progress and hence this definition which has not been agreed by all Sectors, shall not be forwarded to PP-14 by the ITU Council.
