International Telecommunication Union

PLENARY MEETING	**Document 90-E**
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Report by the Council

TRANSMISSION OF CONCLUSIONS OF TSAG DISCUSSIONS ON THE WORK CARRIED OUT BY THE CORRESPONDENCE GROUP ON THE ELABORATION OF A WORKING DEFINITION OF THE TERM "ICT"

Summary

This document summarizes the concerns expressed by all ITU-T study group chairmen regarding the proposed definition of "ICT", elaborated by the "Correspondence Group to Propose a Working Definition of the Term 'ICT' ". TSAG agreed that the TSB Director forward the concerns of the ITU-T study group chairmen to the Council session prior to PP-14.

At its final meeting, the Council decided to forward this report to the Plenipotentiary Conference, together with a summary of discussions which can be found in Annex.

Action required

The Plenipotentiary Conference is invited to **consider** the document.
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References
TSAG Report 3 of 17-20 June 2014 meeting; *TSAG TD170Rev1*

Below please find an excerpt of the report of the TSAG meeting 17-20 June 2014:

"All ITU-T SG chairmen agree unanimously that the proposed working definition of "ICT" is not yet mature enough. In particular, while they have no concerns with the basic working definition text, they have concerns with the descriptive narrative which qualifies the working definition as follows: "The working definition is not intended to include content, services, software, or applications; interfere with the security or integrity of networks or personal data […]". These limits placed on the working definition are in conflict with the work authorized by WTSA-12 of several ITU-T study groups that include content, services, software, applications, security or integrity of networks. These work areas have been core to the ITU-T study groups for many past study periods. The Standardization Committee for Vocabulary (SCV) in a virtual meeting had come to the same conclusion.

TSAG agreed that the TSB Director forward the concerns of the ITU-T study group chairmen to the Council session prior to PP-14."

ANNEX

Summary of discussions at the final meeting of the 2014 Session of Council

The Deputy-Director of TSB introduced Document C14/109, which transmitted the conclusions of TSAG's discussions on the work carried out by the correspondence group on the elaboration of a working definition of the term "ICT".

One councillor said that various ITU conferences (WTSA, WCIT, WTDC) had been called upon to discuss matters related to content, services, applications and network security, making it necessary for the study groups to deal with more and more questions in implementation of conference decisions: services, multimedia, Internet connectivity, cybersecurity, etc. The list was endless. Any attempt to introduce limitations and qualifications was therefore meaningless, as it could hamper the role played by ITU in standardization and the development of ICTs.

Another councillor said that the working definition of "ICT" and accompanying guidelines could not be dissociated one from another; they went hand in hand to form a package solution, and as such her delegation supported them. When PP-14 came to consider Document 48(Rev.1), it would become apparent how the outcome had been developed, and how a broad range of participants had been involved in elaborating the package.

One councillor recalled that his delegation had submitted a contribution to the Council in May 2014 expressing many of the concerns reflected in Document C14/109. The text accompanying the working definition would limit the scope of ITU's role, and should be discarded. The matter should be referred to the imminent plenipotentiary conference for discussion. Another councillor supported those views, adding that Document C14/109 along with the comments made by councillors should be forwarded to PP-14 for discussion when it considered Document 48(Rev.1).

The Secretary-General urged the Council not to place unnecessary restrictions on him and the secretariat. In order to flourish alongside other organizations, ITU required a proper, workable definition of "ICT"; there was no hidden agenda or intention to expand ITU's role and seek to encroach on the territory of other organizations.

The Council agreed to forward Document C14/109 along with the comments made by councillors to PP-14 for discussion when it considered Document 48(Rev.1).

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