

I n t e r n a t i o n a l T e l e c o m m u n i c a t i o n U n i o n

ITU-T

TELECOMMUNICATION
STANDARDIZATION SECTOR
OF ITU

WORLD TELECOMMUNICATION STANDARDIZATION
ASSEMBLY

Johannesburg, 21-30 October 2008

Resolution 44 – Bridging the standardization gap between developing and developed countries

FOREWORD

The International Telecommunication Union (ITU) is the United Nations specialized agency in the field of telecommunications, information and communication technologies (ICTs). The ITU Telecommunication Standardization Sector (ITU-T) is a permanent organ of ITU. ITU-T is responsible for studying technical, operating and tariff questions and issuing Recommendations on them with a view to standardizing telecommunications on a worldwide basis.

The World Telecommunication Standardization Assembly (WTSA), which meets every four years, establishes the topics for study by the ITU-T study groups which, in turn, produce Recommendations on these topics.

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RESOLUTION 44

Bridging the standardization gap between developing and developed countries¹

(Florianópolis, 2004; Johannesburg, 2008)

The World Telecommunication Standardization Assembly (Johannesburg, 2008),

considering

- a) that Resolution 123 (Rev. Antalya, 2006) of the Plenipotentiary Conference on bridging the standardization gap between developing and developed countries instructs the Secretary-General and the Directors of the three Bureaux to work closely with each other in pursuing initiatives that assist in bridging the standardization gap between developing and developed countries on follow-up and implementation of the operative paragraphs of this resolution supporting coordination in this respect at the regional level through regional offices and organizations;
- b) that Resolution 139 (Antalya, 2006) of the Plenipotentiary Conference invites Member States to rapidly implement Resolution 37 (Rev. Doha, 2006) of the World Telecommunication Development Conference on bridging the digital divide,

recognizing

- a) that, in accordance with Article 13 of the ITU Convention, the World Telecommunication Standardization Assembly (WTSA) is convened to consider specific matters related to telecommunication standardization;
- b) that the tasks undertaken in the ITU Telecommunication Standardization Sector (ITU-T) cover Recommendations, conformity assessment and matters having policy or regulatory implications;
- c) that Article 17 of the ITU Constitution, while providing that the functions of ITU-T shall fulfil the purposes of the Union relating to telecommunication standardization, stipulates that such functions are to be performed "bearing in mind the particular concerns of the developing countries";
- d) that the disparity between developing and developed countries in standardization has three components: the disparity of voluntary standardization, the disparity of mandatory technical regulations and the disparity of conformity assessment,

noting

- a) that the standardization gap between developed and developing countries should be bridged by collective efforts from both developed and developing countries;
- b) that ITU has been playing a key role in bridging the digital divide, which is related to bridging the standardization gap between developed and developing countries;
- c) that ITU has made significant advances in defining the standardization gap, the role and importance of bridging it and ways to measure the progress towards this goal;
- d) that ITU's programmes for fostering partnerships, under the patronage of ITU-T, continue to strengthen and expand the assistance ITU provides its members, particularly developing countries,

¹ These include the least developed countries, small island developing states and countries with economies in transition.