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| Subject: | Continuation of question 24/2 on ICT and Climate Change for the next ITU-D study period 2014-2018: European Common Proposal |

**Introduction, continuation of the Question 24/2**

During the current ITU-D study period 2010-2014, Question 24/2 was established and was in charge of ICT and Climate Change. The work conducted within thus study period has led to a report (and annexes) and a recommendation. In order to achieve all this work, Q24/2 launched an ITU-D questionnaire the answers of which were quite helpful. The questionnaire was launched jointly with ITU-T SG5 Questions 22/5 and 23/5.

The report explains the main scientific aspects related to climate change and presents the last available figures in this field. The notion of ICT is introduced and the link with Climate Change is well detailed.

The recommendation highlights the fact that ITU-D should develop guidelines, best practices for the purpose of implementing national policies and related measures to facilitate the use of ICT to combat climate change challenges. In addition, a support is necessary to help countries invest more in meteorology monitoring services in order to prevent extreme events that could be devastating as better prediction would costs relatively little and helps reduce the carnage caused by floods, droughts and tropical cyclones. It is also recommended that a program be developed based on real figures showing the effect of reduced energy consumption and the benefit of ICT. Innovative ICT-enabled strategies to tackle climate change adaptation and mitigation on the long-term should be promoted as well as more robust, affordable and reliable green ICT operating in difficult meteorological conditions (hot weather, high humidity…).

The proposal is that the continuation of Question 24/2 would be focused on these above elements.

In addition, the continuation of Q24/2 would take advantage of last IPCC Publication published 11 th November 2013: Climate Change 2013 - The Physical Science Basis Working Group I Contribution to the Fifth Assessment Report of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change, Summary for Policymakers. Further detailed interim reports will be published in 2014. The final Synthesis Report (SYR) of the Fifth Assessment Report will be considered in Copenhagen, Denmark, on 27-31 October 2014.

**Proposal: continuation of Question 24/2: ICT and Climate Change**

**1 Statement of the situation**

Climate change is now an undeniable reality. Without further commitments and action to reduce greenhouse gas emissions, the world is likely to warm by more than 3°C above the preindustrial climate. The issue of climate change requires global collaboration by all concerned, in particular the developing countries which are the most vulnerable group of countries.

The ICT industry is currently responsible for approximately 2 per cent of global CO2 emissions. ICT solutions have the enabling potential to reduce a significant part of the remaining 98 per cent of the total volume of CO2 emitted by non-ICT industries. The application of ICT solutions can help to bring about a resource-efficient and services-based society, and can deliver CO2 emission reductions, particularly in those sectors where the opportunities for doing so are greatest, i.e. construction, transportation and manufacturing.

ITU is committed to combat against climate change and this continuation of ITU-D Question 24/2 is strategic to all ITU sectors.

**2 Question for study**

During the current ITU-D study period 2010-2014, Question 24/2 was established and was dealing with ICT and Climate Change. The work conducted within this study period has led to a report (and annexes) and a recommendation. In order to achieve all this work, Q24/2 launched an ITU-D questionnaire the answers of which were quite helpful. The report as proposed by Q24/2 is technical in nature and highlights the challenges that developed and developing countries face and will face in the near/far future. It provides definitions of certain terms related to the question, demonstrates the linkages between ICT and Climate Change. It shows that climate Monitoring is essential and efforts would be undertaken to reduce greenhouse gas emissions (GHG). Studies have shown that climate change is irreversible on the long term, and some aspects in ICT matters could be improved, while noting that the human activity is mainly responsible for the rise of the temperatures..Therefore, taking into account this work, the continuation of Question 24/2 would be focused on the development of guidelines, best practices for the purpose of implementing national policies and related measures to facilitate the use of ICT to combat climate change challenges. Innovative ICT-enabled strategies to tackle climate change adaptation and mitigation on the long-term would be promoted as well as more robust, affordable and reliable green ICT operating in difficult meteorological conditions (hot weather, high humidity…).

In addition, the continuation of Q24/2 would take advantage of last IPCC Publication published 11 th November 2013: Climate Change 2013The Physical Science Basis Working Group I Contribution to the Fifth Assessment Report of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change, Summary for Policymakers. Further detailed interim reports will be published in 2014. The final Synthesis Report (SYR) of the Fifth Assessment Report will be considered in Copenhagen, Denmark, on 27-31 October 2014.

**3. Complementarity between ITU-D and ITU-R and ITU-T concerning activities on climate change**

The three ITU sectors are fully engaged within climate change activities, and each sector has its own specificity.

PP-Resolution 182 (Guadalajara 2010) on “the role of telecommunications/information and communication technologies on climate change and the protection of the environment” describes the global framework of the ITU work, quoting both ITU-T SG 5 and ITU-D SG 2 Q 24/2.

* WTSA-Resolution 73 (Dubai 2012) defines the global responsibility of the ITU work on climate change that has been allocated to ITU-T Study Group 5

**4. Expected output**

a. Yearly progress report on the above study items;

b. A final Report for the Question that includes:

1. Best practices related to sustainable ICT development and deployment, and the development of the national ICT strategies related to climate change

2. Material for workshops and seminars for the developing countries, in relation with the relevant ITU-D Programme and in consultation with ITU-T and ITU-R related Study Groups.

c. A concise overall toolkit on ICT and climate change to be easily used by all administrations. This toolkit will provide information on:

1. Earth observation monitoring services in order to prevent extreme events that could be devastating, as better prediction would cost relatively little
2. Harmonized assessment methodologies and common standards for evaluating the ICT’s environmental impacts
3. Harmonized assessment methodologies and common standards for calculating the positive contribution ICT can make to other sectors—showing the effect of reduced energy consumption. In particular, the benefits of de-materialization enabled by telecommunication networks and services would be studied
4. Innovative ICT-enabled strategies to tackle climate change adaptation and mitigation on the long-term, including more robust, affordable and reliable green ICT operating in difficult meteorological conditions (hot weather, high humidity…).

**5. Timing**

The output will be generated on a yearly basis; the output for the first year will be analysed and assessed in order to update the work for the next year and so on. Some parts of the delideliverables may be available and almost finalized in 2015 or 2016. The final report as well the toolkit are due at the ITU-D SG2 meeting in 2017.

**6. Proposers**

The Question is to be approved by WTDC-14.

**7. Source of inputs**

Contributions are expected from:

Member States, Sector Members and Associates as well as inputs from:

a) Relevant BDT programmes and particularly those ICT initiatives which were successfully implemented for climate change.

b) Regional needs as identified by relevant Questionnaire and/or workshops on the subject.

c) Regional and/or national action plans and/or results in combating climate change.

d) Progress achieved by ITU-T and ITU-R Study Groups in this domain, in particular the results of the Joint Coordination Activity on ICTs and Climate Change (JCA-ICTCC).

e) Progress achieved by United Nations Intergovernmental panel on climatic change (IPCC) and other similar initiative(s).

**8. Target audience**

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| **Target audience**  | **Developed countries** | **Developing countries** |
| Telecom policy-makers | Yes | Yes |
| Telecom regulators | Yes | Yes |
| Service provider/operators | Yes | Yes |
| Manufacturers | Yes | Yes |

**9. Proposed methods for handling this question**

Within Study Group 2.

**10. Coordination**

Close coordination is essential with ITU-D Programmes, as well as with other relevant ITU-D and ITU-T Study Questions, and ITU-R Study Groups dealing with ICT for climate change.

**11. BDT Programme link**

Programme 5 will be the one concerned with this Question.

**12. Other relevant information**

To be determined during the implementation of this Question.

**Annex**

1. **Question 24-2 for the ITU-D study cycle 2010-2014**



1. **Resolution 73**

Resolution 73 deals with ICTs and climate change, invites the 3 ITU Sectors to launch pilot projects on environmental sustainability issues, in particular in developing countries; to support the development of reports on ICTs, the environment and climate change, including issues related to, inter alia, green data centers, smart buildings, green ICT procurement, cloud computing, energy efficiency, smart transportation, smart logistics, smart grids, water management, adaptation to climate change and disaster preparedness, and how the ICT sector contributes to annual reductions in GHG emissions; to organize workshops and seminars for developing countries, to raise awareness and identify their particular needs and challenges on environment and climate change issues; as well as to report on progress of the ITU/WMO/UNESCO IOC Joint Task Force to investigate the potential of using submarine telecommunication cables for ocean and climate monitoring and disaster warning.

**Conclusion**

Com-ITU is invited to take into account the proposal for continuation of Question 24/2 for the next ITU-D Conference in 2014 and France proposes to adopt this proposal as an European Common Proposal.

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