

## **TSAG, 19-23 March 2001**

**The UK delegation was composed of the following with Lead UK Spokesman responsibilities as indicated.**

Malcolm Johnson	DTI	Head of Delegation, Lead on UK proposal on Strategy and Operational Groups
John Magill	Lucent	EDH and PR
Roy Blane	Inmarsat	Work Programme, Lead on UK proposal on Working Methods and Practices of TSAG (WP1 Chairman)
Stewart Alexander	BT	Ad hoc group on Reform, Lead on UK proposal on pilot Forum
Wyn Lucas	DTI/RA	Working Methods
Brian Moore	Lucent	Strategic Plan
Gerry Lawrence	Marconi	UK proposal on SSG Questions
Mike Briggs	BT	
Linda Matthews	BT	
Keith Whittingham	DTI	C&C Group
Chris Kemp	Ericsson	
Alan Pugh	MGCS	

### **General**

This was the first TSAG since the WTSA-2000, and benefited from the new team of vice-chairmen, in particular WP1 on Working Methods chaired by Stewart Alexander, and WP2 on Work Programme chaired by Godfrey Williams (Nortel). Mr Kisrawi (Syria) was also effective in chairing the ad hoc group on Reform.

Overall it was a successful, productive and good humoured meeting. The four UK contributions were well received and generally successful, in particular a Strategy Group was established (under the chairmanship of Mr Kisrawi, Syria) and correspondence groups were established on the proposals for a pilot forum and an operational group, which will be considered again at the next meeting.

### **Working Party 1: Working Methods**

#### **General**

TSAG Working Party 1 (Working Methods) met for three half day sessions under the able chairmanship of Stewart Alexander.

#### **Agenda**

Issues dealt with included:

- Consideration of Issues related to Resolution 22, resolves 2 (see UK proposal on Strategy Group and Operational Group below)
- Alternative Approval Process (AAP)
  - Review of Current Position
  - Further guidance (Res. 37)
  - Selection (Res. 1 and Res.40)
  - EDH Process ( Joint with EDH group)
- Further Enhancements to Work Methods

#### **Alternative Approval Process**

The Working Party reviewed the current position on the AAP process as elaborated in a report prepared by the TSAG chairman and noted the AAP implementation as reported by the TSB. Full use had not yet been made of the e-mail announcement process but this is likely to take place very soon. It was noted that it is intended to have AAP announcements on the 1st and 16th of each month.

The Working Party considered the additional time periods put forward by the Study Group chairmen's meeting. The USA did not support establishment of fixed deadlines such as 8 weeks following the CONSENT meeting, and 2 or 4 weeks for the Study Group Chairman's JUDGMENT. The concerns expressed by the United States and some other countries were noted. However, the Working Party found, in general, that setting a guideline is useful and for the time being, it was agreed to keep the target date of 8 weeks. This guideline will be reviewed at the next meeting when more experience of the use of the AAP is available. The Director of TSB assured the Working Party that in justified cases the TSB, in consultation with the concerned Chairman, will apply this guideline in a flexible manner.

### **Further Enhancements to Work Methods**

The following further enhancements were considered:

- Bulletin Board service
- Reporting on experiences
- Improvement in working methods, practices and procedures

### **Other Issues related to working Methods**

Other issues looked at but not concluded were:

- Project Oriented Approach
- Rules of Procedure
- Maximum Term of Office
- Work carried out by the Editors
- Training for ITU-T delegates, etc

### **UK proposal on establishment of a Strategy Group and an Operational Group (D.10)**

This proposal was supported by an ETNO contribution, which in addition proposed the establishment of a "visionary group". These proposals were introduced in the Plenary on the first morning, and despite some strong resistance were passed to WP1 for further consideration.

In WP1 a drafting group was set up under Mr Goztony (Hungary) to consider these proposals in detail, including the possibility of building on the Chairman's Group to create the Operational Group.

After much debate in the drafting group, it was agreed to establish a Strategy Group which would operate as a Working party of TSAG. A separate "visionaries group" was not agreed, it being felt that it was up to the participants in the Strategy Group to involve their "visionaries" in its work.

Agreement on the composition and mandate of the Operational Group was complicated by the suggestion it should replace the existing Study Group Chairmen's meeting. This resulted in considerable resistance from a number of Study Group Chairmen and the Director. Late in the discussion (in fact after WP1 had concluded) the drafting group agreed that a modified proposal should be considered by a correspondence group in preparation for further consideration and the next TSAG meeting.

The Plenary on the last day agreed to the output of the drafting group and appointed Mr Kisrawi (Syria) as chairman of a Strategy Group, and Mr Goztony as coordinator of the correspondence group on the proposal for an Operational Group and restructuring of TSAG.

### **Working Party 2 (Work Programme)**

TSAG Working Party 2 was Chaired by Godfrey Williams of Nortel Canada.

The first session of WP2 reviewed inputs from a number of Study Groups some of which provided text of proposed new study questions. The main item of discussion surrounded the inputs regarding the proposed revised and new study questions for SSG IMT-2000 and beyond. The Chairman eventually formed a small Ad-Hoc Group to review the issues that had been raised in the delayed contribution from the UK (D.12) with a view to providing some suitable text for inclusion in the WP.2 meeting report on this topic. The Ad-Hoc Group eventually adopted four of the principles included in the UK D.12 contribution and the way was left open for further changes to be made to the proposed eight study questions at the May meeting of the SSG. These conclusions from the Working Party were accepted by the TSAG at its final plenary session.

During the second session of Working Party 2 the issues surrounding the June 2000 decision to transfer work on ASN.1 (Abstract Syntax Notation number one) from SG7 to SG10 were discussed. No clear understanding was forthcoming and the Chairman set up a small Ad-Hoc Group to brainstorm ideas that might meet the needs of both SG7 and SG10. This Group eventually proposed the amalgamation of SG7 and SG10 into a new SG17 (Data Networks and Telecommunications Software), with the existing Chairmen becoming Co-Chairmen. An illustrative breakdown of the new SG17 Working Party structures was also provided. This proposal was accepted by the Working Party and TSAG and will become effective from 17<sup>th</sup> September 2001. In addition the meeting agreed that future meetings of the new SG17 would need to be aligned/co-located with SG11.

The meeting also reviewed the Canadian proposal (D.17) to achieve a split in the work of the ITU-T into purely Technical and Policy and Regulatory. The USA strongly opposed this contribution although the meeting eventually agreed upon the principle and desire for this course of action but left this issue open for further input.

The French proposal (D.7) to create a new Study Group to deal with Security issues did not receive the support of the meeting. However the need for ITU-T to build a critical mass of experts in this field was recognized and the meeting endorsed a proposal to request SG7 in association with the ITU Strategic Policy Unit, to prepare an ITU Workshop on Security in the near future.

The creation of a Focus Group on User Requirement Notification (URN) by SG10 was noted. The status of the ICG for Satellite was presented and the meeting agreed that a consolidated report of the work of the ICG should be made available for future TSAG meetings. The meeting also noted the relevant items for ITU-T Study Groups which were provided in Opinion D of the recent ITU WTPF on IP Telephony. TSAG encouraged Study Groups to consider the appropriate aspects of Opinion D in their work programs based upon contributions.

The Working Party noted plans for an ITU Workshop on IP Networking and MEDIACOM 2004 that is scheduled for 24-27 April 2001. Similarly the meeting noted Board member inputs on the recent meeting of ICANN in Melbourne together with a response document from the Chairman of SG2 that provided a factual breakdown of the issues raised. Input documents were covering financial aspects, revised Resolution Number 2, Study Group meeting schedule and ITU-TSB database statistics were also noted.

### **UK proposal on Working Methods and Practices of TSAG (D.11)**

Delayed document 11 was reviewed by Working Party 1 and Working Party on EDH.

The meeting reviewed the proposals contained in this document for working procedures and practices of TSAG favorably. The meeting also agreed to meet the spirit of the proposal for Working Party Road Maps to be used at TSAG meetings to aid participants who were unable to attend all Working Parties and Working Groups. TD 62 provided the first ever TSAG Road Map.

The meeting noted the proposals contained in section 3.4 of this document regarding electronic working group practices and procedures but deferred to the Working Party for EDH on that specific issue.

WP.3 invited further contributions in Action Item 4 that will consider future EDH developments in respect to the long term plan. To this end section 3.4 of D11 appears to have slipped between the cracks of WP's 2 and 3 and should therefore be re-submitted at a later date.

### **UK proposal on SSG Questions (D.12)**

Also in Working Party 2, the subject of the SSG questions was addressed. After some discussion about the uncertainty in the detail of the procedure for agreeing questions, The chairman tasked the TSB to provide clarification. It was noted, however, that question text could be re-visited when necessary in any case.

Following an introduction and some discussion on the UK proposal, Mike Briggs was asked to hold an ad-hoc meeting to produce some draft text as a TSAG guidance statement. This appears in TD 65 and is as follows:

The following principles should be applied when interpreting the SSG questions:

- The Terms of Reference of the SSG should be used to test the relevance of the proposed work
- There should be no overlap of the tasks with work performed in the 3G partnership projects and associated SDOs:
- There should be no overlap with the work of other Study Groups when developing the overall work plan as lead Study Group on IMT 2000 and Beyond.
- There should be no overlap between the tasks of the Working Parties of the SSG

While questions should be stable to provide a framework for progressing the work, they can be adjusted as needs warrant.

Furthermore, there was a general view that ongoing co-operation and collaboration between the SSG and other groups internal and external to ITU should continue and be encouraged as an essential aspect of the work.

### **Collaboration and Coordination Ad Hoc Group**

The Cooperation and Coordination Group held two meetings in Geneva on 20 and 21 March 2001 under the chairmanship of Mr. Andrea Macchioni (Italy).

*The following provides the results of TSAG deliberations on the work of the Group:*

### **Relations with Forums and Consortia (Recommendation A.4)**

It was agreed that the Director of TSB should aim to achieve contact with W3C of the WWW Consortium in order to get the necessary documentation for A.4 qualification. At the same time

the participants of the interested Study Groups (Sector members taking part also in the work of W3C) are encouraged to contact W3C, specifying their real need for technical cooperation.

Each Study Group is to be requested to amend the list of qualified organisations contained in tables of Recommendations A4, A5, A6. The latest version of these tables are given in Annex 1 to TD 59.

### **Generic procedures for including References (Recommendation A.5)**

Although TSAG may consider *de facto* standards, it was agreed there was a need to study carefully the issue and its implications, especially in considering the respect of the quality of the information and IPR issues. In the future a new A-Series Recommendation, or a revision of existing Recommendation A.5, could be elaborated to include *de facto* standards.

The Annexes of Recommendation A.5 provide useful information specific to an organization. However it was agreed that the proliferation of these annexes should be stopped. It was expressed that each organization should be treated at the same manner, the possibility of keeping the existing annexes and put the others on the web was not agreed. It was agreed to revise Recommendation A.5 by deleting the actual Annexes, the revised text of Recommendation A.5 is given in TD 57.

The TSB was invited to create an appropriate place on the ITU-T Web site to publish the material of the existing Annexes and all new related information.

### **Supplements to ITU-T Recommendations (Recommendation A.13)**

It was clearly stated that Supplements are only informative, any reference in a supplement is by definition non-normative, and so conformance to Recommendation A.5 is not applicable. It was agreed to keep the proposed modification for further revision of Recommendation A13, and inform Study Groups on this clarification.

TSAG is to send a Liaison Statement to all Study Groups on "Procedure for including references to documents of other organizations in ITU-T Supplements".

### **Cooperation between ITU-T and the Internet Society**

It is very important to avoid duplication of work both for ITU-T and IETF, as expressed at the last meeting of SG Chairmen and Area Directors. It is mandatory that TSB and the interested Study Groups should be informed on the possible overlapping.

TSAG is to ask the Director of TSB that this problem should be clearly mentioned on the agenda of the next SG Chairmen and Area Directors meeting.

Following a proposal that that ITU-T provide the PSO-PC secretariat and host the PSO GA in 2002, TSAG encouraged the TSB to find the necessary resources to offer the secretariat and to host the PSO GA.

### **Cooperation between ITU-T and ISO/IEC**

The TSB Director, the Deputy Director of TSB and the Chairman of TSAG are to be included in the World Standard Council, WTC.

The TSAG Chairman is to ask to report back to C&C Group on the decisions taken by WTC: The WTC replaces the former JPCG (Joint Presidents' Coordination Group).

The proposed revision of the Guide for ITU-T and ISO/IEC JTC 1 Cooperation was accepted without change. As this Guide forms Annex A of Recommendation A.23, it should go through an approval procedure. This text should be reviewed by JTC 1 and approved nearly at the same time by ITU-T and JTC 1. (JTC 1 will have its meeting in November 2001.) The draft revised Guide is published in TD/60.

TSAG determined the revised Annex A to Recommendation A.23 published in Temporary Document TD/60. TSAG is to inform all Study Groups on the determination of this revised Guide.

### **Ad hoc Group on Reform**

This group was chaired by Mr Kisrawi. The main output was a proposal to create a correspondence group (lead by Mr. Lieser, Germany) to consider various issues related to the establishment of a pilot Forum. This was agreed in the Plenary with a view to TSAG considering the proposal at its next meeting.

### **UK Proposal on the Establishment of a Pilot Forum**

The UK proposal that TSAG request the SSG to complete work on Question 8 (new working methods) by the next TSAG meeting in order to assist TSAG to consider establishing a pilot Forum at its next meeting, was supported by ETNO and opposed by Russia and Italy. A positive result was finally achieved as shown in Annex C.

**Malcolm Johnson**  
**30.3.01**