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INTERNATIONAL TELECOMMUNICATION UNION

STUDY GROUP 13

**TELECOMMUNICATION
STANDARDIZATION SECTOR**

STUDY PERIOD 2009-2012

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Title:	Focus Group on Future Networks (FG-FN); Terms of Reference

1.   Scope

The Focus Group, established in accordance with ITU-T Recommendation A.7, by collaborating with worldwide future network (FN) communities (e.g., research institutes, forums, academia and etc), aims to

● collect and identify visions of future networks, based on new technologies,

● assess the interactions between future networks and new services,

● familiarize ITU-T and standardization communities with emerging attributes of future networks, and

● encourage collaboration between ITU-T and FN communities.

2.   Rationale

According to the decision by WTSA-08 at Johannesburg, the title of SG13 in the new study period (2009-2012) is "Future Networks including Mobile and NGN" reflecting the importance of "Future Networks" agreed by WTSA-2008. It means that the SG13 has a leading role to investigate the issue on Future Networks in the new study period. In particular, a new Question on Future Networks has been approved as Q21/13.

Future Networks have become a part of global agenda through lots of research activities such as IRTF (International), GENI/FIND (US), FP7/FIRE (EU), CNGI (China), AKARI/NwGN (Japan), FIF (Korea) as well as standardization works in ISO/IEC JTC1/SC6. The academic community expressed their strong interest in collaborating with the ITU-T on this subject during the last ITU-T Kaleidoscope event in May 2008. However, it is understood all these activities are in their early stage of investigation. Taking into consideration the importance of global connectivity and interoperability between devices, networks, services and applications, global harmonization between these different activities are extremely important and necessary to build up globally

interoperable future ICT infrastructures. Since the ITU-T is acknowledged as the global standards organization, it should make all efforts to support the development of global and harmonized frameworks (e.g. requirements, functional architectures and protocols) collaborating with all relevant entities and activities.

At the same time ITU-T SG13 envisions that the role of the Focus Group will involve interaction with these various research activities, and familiarize ITU-T and standardization communities with emerging attributes of future networks.

Focus Group is an instrument created by ITU-T that assists the Study Group work programme by providing a flexible working environment for the quick development of Deliverables. The key difference of Focus Groups from Study Groups is in the freedom that Focus Groups can organize and finance themselves. One of the key advantages of Focus Groups are that they open the membership to any organization or individuals, which is one of the most important conditions for this kind of initial discussion that allowing the collection of fresh and innovative ideas for future use. The flexibility and ability to meet different locations of the Focus Group will enable Q.21/13, mandated for the study of Future Networks, to establish new channels and interactions with organizations/projects which are dealing with telecommunication-related futuristic topics. Supported by the Focus Group, SG13 can establish the clear roadmap of studies for Future Networks and good collaboration with relevant organizations/projects which are imperative to standardization activities for the Future Networks.

In this regards, SG13 proposes that "Focus Group on Future Networks (FG-FN)" should be established to share the discussion on Future Networks and ensure global common understanding about Future Networks with collaboration and harmonization with relevant entities and activities.

3.   FG Objective

The objective of the Focus Group is to document results that would be helpful for developing Recommendations for future networks. To achieve this objective the Focus Group will

- gather new ideas relevant to Future Networks and identify potential study areas on Future Networks,

- describe visions of the Future Networks,

- identify a timeframe of Future Networks,

- identify potential impacts on standards development, and

- suggest future ITU-T study items and related actions.

4.   Relations in and outside ITU-T

The FG will work in close collaboration with all ITU-T Study Groups (e.g. through collocated meetings, see section 10), for instance on the coordination of respective work programs in order to avoid duplication and overlap of work, and on the coordination of tutorials and workshops.

In particular, Q.21/13 will take a role of communication channel between the FG and other questions in SG13 and other SGs.

The FG will also cooperate and coordinate its work with the other ITU sectors (ITU-R, ITU-D), and with other relevant bodies outside ITU-T (Universities, Research institutes, SDOs, Fora/Consortia, regulators, policy-makers) in accordance with ITU-T Recommendation A.7.

5. Specific tasks and deliverables

- Review related research and standardization activities.
- Based on this review produce the following deliverables
  - ➢ Future network benefits
  - ➢ Future network vision
  - ➢ High-level description of Future Networks attributes
  - ➢ Vocabulary
    - ✧ Incremental terms required to address Future Networks

6. Conveners

Chairman and Vice-Chairman will be appointed by SG13.

7. Participation

In accordance with ITU-T Recommendation A.7. participation to this FG is open to ITU members and other relevant bodies outside ITU (e.g., Universities, Research institutes, SDOs, Fora/Consortia, policy-makers from a country that is a member of ITU) involved in Future Network activities worldwide. A list of participants will be maintained for reference purposes and reported to SG 13.

8. Administrative support

The TSB Secretariat will provide TIES support and website capabilities from ITU-T headquarters, any other support should be provided in accordance with clause 5 of ITU-T Recommendation A.7.

9. General financing of the FG

As mentioned in clauses 4 and 10.2 of ITU-T Recommendation A.7. the Focus Group will be self-funded by its members.

10. Meetings

The FG should use remote collaboration tools (for instance, by establishing a 'wiki') to the maximum extent, and collocation with existing meetings (e.g. SGs and research activities).

11. Milestones and duration of the FG

The focus group lifetime is one year from the 1st meeting to the Summer 2010.

The following milestones are proposed:

- Establishment of the Focus Group at the SG13 meeting (January 2009)

- Endorsement of the Focus Group at TSAG meeting (April 2009)

- Holding of the first Focus Group meeting (end of June or July 2009)

- Production of the Deliverables as identified in Clause 5 (Summer 2010)

12.   Parent Group

SG13.

Appendix I: Background

For the sake of better understanding of Future Networks, an initial definition of 'Future Networks' developed in Q.21/13 meeting is provided here. And in Q.21 discussion the clean-slate approach was understood as a design principle, not deployment.

Future Network (FN) is a network which is able to provide revolutionary services, capabilities, and facilities that are hard to provide using existing network technologies.

Note: FN provides mechanisms that benefit every participant as much as they contribute. It will be studied based on clean-slate approaches.