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Coordination Meeting of Standardisation Activities for assessing the Environmental Impact of ICT

Meeting Summary - January 20th 2011 - ITU Headquarters

Introduction

- At the initiative of the European Commission, the Chairpersons of the main international standardisation groups working on the development of methodologies to assess the environmental impact of ICT gathered in Geneva on January 20th 2011, in the premises of the ITU - the UN agency for ICT.
- Key Actions 12 of the Commission's Digital Agenda for Europe (DAE) states the following: *The Commission will assess by 2011 whether the **ICT sector has complied with the timeline to adopt common measurement methodologies** for the sector's own energy performance and greenhouse gas emissions and propose legal measures if appropriate.* It refers to articles 1 to 3 of Commission Recommendation C(2009)7604.
- The objective of the meeting was to discuss how to ensure coverage of the entire ICT sector, compatibility and consistency of the different measurement methodologies developed under the various ongoing standardisation efforts.

Summary

- The ITU under ITU-T SG5 developed a Draft New Recommendation ITU-T L.1400 (Overview and general principles of methodologies for assessing the environmental impact of ICT) which was consented on 1 October 2010 and is under approval process. This Recommendation presents the general principles on how to assess the environmental impact of ICT and outlines the different methodologies that are being developed :
 - Assessment of the environmental impact of ICT goods, networks, and services;
 - Assessment of the environmental impact of ICT projects;
 - Assessment of the environmental impact of ICT in organizations;
 - Assessment of the environmental impact of ICT in cities;
 - Assessment of the environmental impact of ICT in countries or group of countries.
- This Recommendation also provides some examples of opportunities to reduce the environmental load thanks to ICT.
- The timings of delivery of the Methodology of ICT goods, networks and services and the Methodology for ICT in organizations (which will cover ICT in non-ICT

organizations) have been revised in ITU plenary sessions in order to match the timings of the European Commission DAE.

- It was noted that the ITU-T SG5 Methodology could provide a broader framework and it was suggested during the meeting that other SDOs and organizations may send in their contributions to ITU-T in order to ensure coherence and compatibility of the methodologies that are currently being developed under the various ongoing efforts.
- All methodologies developed by the ITU are based on ISO standards (14000-series) adapted to the specificities of the ICT sector.
- Collaboration with ETSI is happening de-facto through the participation of the same individuals/companies, especially for the lifecycle assessment of ICT products and services.
- The ITU is also developing a methodology for ICT projects, which aims at evaluating the extent to which ICT can mitigate GHG emissions in other industrial sectors (so-called enabling effect). This work is done in cooperation with UNFCCC and should be completed in 2012.

- The **IEC** under IEC TC111 is going to develop a methodology for the environmental impact of products and systems if the corresponding New Work Item Proposal that is under voting until 18th of February is approved.
- It is also going to develop a methodology for the enabling effect of electrical and electronics products if the corresponding New Work Item Proposal that is under voting until 18th of February is approved.
- There exists a liaison with ITU-T SG5, ISO TC207 and ECMA.
- Data centres may be covered by another technical committee of the IEC. The Commission and the IEC will work together to ensure that this group, if it exists, is included in follow-up meetings.
- The IEC emphasized the importance to coordinate during 2011 between ITU and IEC in order to ensure an appropriate sharing of the work and an entire coverage of the sector.
- The IEC may, if the new works are approved, try to prepare an initial draft of their methodology ready by end-2011.

- The **ETSI** under ETSI technical committee on environmental engineering (TC EE) aims to harmonize measurement methods of energy efficiency and methodologies for environmental impact assessment (in particular lifecycle assessment).
- The ETSI TC-EE work item on Life Cycle Assessment (LCA) may fall under the European Commission standardization mandate M/478 on GreenHouse Gas emissions.
- There exists a liaison between ETSI TC EE and CENELEC TC111X (mirror European Committee of IEC TC111) for the coordination of standardization activities of power consumption in standby and off modes.
- The ETSI work on data centres is happening under the technical committee Access, Terminals, Transmission and Multiplexing (TC ATTM). A new CEN-CENELEC and ETSI coordination group on energy efficiency in data centres is being to be established; ETSI representatives will be TC ATTM and TC-EE chairmen.
- It was agreed to establish a liaison between ETSI ATTM and the relevant IEC technical committees in order to ensure the compatibility of measurement methodologies, metrics and guidelines for data centres.
- In addition, ETSI is working in response to the European Commission standardisation mandate M/462 on energy efficiency of ICT in fixed and mobile networks.

- This work will focus on the measurement, metrics and key indicators of energy consumption by individual ICT equipment and will consider the energy efficiency of operational performances for equipment and systems.
- **WBSCD** and the World Resources Institute co-lead a multi-stakeholder partnership to develop the Greenhouse Gas Protocol. At the moment, two new standards are being finalized: i) the Scope 3 accounting and reporting standard (corporate value chain GHG emissions); ii) the product accounting and reporting standard (product GHG emissions).
- 5 companies from the ICT sector have participated in road-testing one of these two standards, whose final version should be published by June 2011.
- WBSCD, together with WRI, GeSI and the Carbon Trust, will develop a specific guidance document for the implementation of the GHG Protocol Product Standard for the ICT sector. The document will be published in fall 2011 as an ICT Sector Supplement on the Greenhouse Gas Protocol website and will be submitted as a contribution to the ITU-T SG5 to be taken into consideration for standardisation.
- It was proposed to WBSCD to have a representative from ITU, ETSI, IEC participating in this effort (e.g. in the Steering Committee) to guarantee the coherence with the WTO rules on standardisation. Given the absence of Japanese companies in GeSI, it is suggested to have a Japanese ICT industrial association taking part in this effort.
- WBSCD indicated that the Steering Committee would be formed in the coming weeks in consultation with the other convening organizations, and this is being considered. WBSCD encourages all participating organizations to keep communication open to leverage existing work and expertise.

In addition to the above:

- Chairpersons of the different groups agree to grant access to the standardisation groups' mailing lists and document sharing tools to the Commission's experts.
- It is agreed to have coordination meetings across those standardisation groups present every two months. The first would take place by conference call on February 15th.
- The possibility to have a 1-day workshop dedicated to methodologies on March 21st during the ITU Green Standardization Week (21-25 March 2011, Roma) is discussed and all chair(wo)men concur to send representatives from their respective standardisation groups.

In conclusion:

- Chairpersons of the key international standardisation efforts active in the area of assessing the environmental impact of ICT have agreed to have their standardisation groups collaborating with each other in order to ensure coherence and compatibility of the methodologies that are currently being developed for different parts of the ICT industry.
- The results of this coordination effort will be presented in future ITU-T Joint Coordination Activity on ICT and Climate Change (JCA-ICT&CC) meetings.

The meeting was attended by:

- **Malcolm Johnson**, Director of the ITU Telecommunication Standardization Bureau
- **Cristina Bueti**, Programme Coordinator, ITU Telecommunication Standardization Bureau
- **Ahmed Zeddami**, Chairman of ITU-T Study Group 5 on Environment and Climate Change
- **Dave Faulkner**, Co-chairman of ITU-T Joint Coordination Activity on ICT and Climate Change
- **Jean-Manuel Canet**, Rapporteur of ITU-T Study Group 5 Question 18/5 on Methodology of Environmental Impact Assessment of ICT
- **Yoshiaki Ichikawa**, Chairman of IEC Technical Committee 111, Environmental Standardization for Electrical and Electronic Products and Systems
- **Jonas Sundborg**, Chairman of ETSI Operational Co-ordination Group
- **Beniamino Gorini**, Chairman of ETSI Technical Committee Environmental Engineering
- **Andrea Brown**, Project Manager of the GHG Protocol Product and Supply Chain Initiative at the World Business Council on Sustainable Development (WBCSD).
- **Colette Maloney**, European Commission, Head of Unit, ICT for Sustainable Growth
- **Pierre Chastanet**, European Commission, Policy Officer, ICT for Sustainable Growth

ANNEX

AGENDA

Coordination Meeting of Standardisation Activities for assessing the Environmental Impact of ICT

January 20th 2011

Room M416, Montbrilliant Building, ITU Headquarters

- 13:30 – Welcome address by the host – Malcolm Johnson, Director of the ITU Telecommunication Standardization Bureau
- 13:40 – Introduction and objectives of the meeting – Colette Maloney, European Commission, Head of Unit ICT for Sustainable Growth
- 14:00 – Presentation of ongoing standardisation activities (*15min presentation and 5 min Q&A each with a clear definition of the scope of the methodology under development and timings of delivery*).
- 14:00 – 14:20 – ITU-T Study Group 5, WP3/5 (ICT and climate change) Question 18 (Methodology of environmental impact assessment of ICT) – Ahmed Zeddani, SG5 Chairman; Dave Faulkner, Joint Coordination Activity on ICT and Climate Change Co-Chairman; Jean-Manuel Canet, Q18 Rapporteur
- 14:20 – 14:40 – IEC Technical Committee 111, Environmental standardization for electrical and electronic products and systems – Yoshiaki Ichikawa, TC111 Chairman
- 14:40 – 15:00 – ETSI Technical Committee Environmental Engineering – Jonas Sundborg, Operational Co-ordination Group Chairman; Beniamino Gorini TC EE Chairman
- 15:00 – 15:20 – WBCSD Greenhouse Gas Protocol Product and Scope 3 Accounting Standards – Andrea Brown, WBCSD GHG Protocol Product and Supply Chain Initiative Project Manager
- 15:20 – 15:30 – Wrap-up
- 15:30 – 17:00 Mapping of the various standardisation efforts and other initiatives
- Discussion and commitment on how to ensure compatibility and consistency of the different methodologies
- 17:00 – 17:30 Wrap-up