



**World Telecommunication Standardization
Assembly (WTSA-20)
Hyderabad, 23 Feb - 05 March 2021**

INTERNATIONAL TELECOMMUNICATION UNION

PLENARY MEETING

**Addendum xx to
Document xx-E
Xx yd 2020
Original: English**

European Common Proposal

Proposed new WTSA Resolution on SMART Submarine Cable Systems

- Abstract :** This proposal was developed in the framework of the Joint Task Force SMART cables, established by the ITU and two other organizations of the UN family: the Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO/IOC) and the World Meteorological Organization (WMO).
- Introduction :** The initial draft was prepared in consultation with TSB. This proposal incorporates input following consultation with other Member States.
- Proposal :** We propose the following draft Resolution to WTSA-20

RESOLUTION **XX** (Hyderabad, 2020)

SMART submarine cable systems

(Hyderabad, 2020)

The World Telecommunication Standardization Assembly (Hyderabad, 2020),

recalling

- a) the concept of SMART (Scientific Monitoring And Reliable Telecommunication) cable systems, integrating scientific sensors to measure ocean bottom temperature, pressure and seismic acceleration in the repeaters of submarine cables, was proposed during an ITU-T Study Group 15 meeting in February 2011;
- b) the International Telecommunication Union (ITU), the Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO/IOC), and the World Meteorological Organization (WMO) established the Joint Task Force on SMART subsea cable systems (JTF SMART Cables) in late 2012;
- c) JTF SMART Cables is actively studying this issue with more than 150 experts representing more than 90 organizations since its creation [need to check numbers];

considering

- a) that environmental issues, including climate change, are acknowledged now as leading global challenges facing humanity, requiring global collaboration and careful monitoring;
- b) tsunami and earthquake early warning is important to save lives by giving time to evacuate and seek protection to affected people;
- c) the sustainable development of built infrastructure depends on understanding sea level rise, ocean processes and the disaster risk due to natural hazards;
- d) the global network of submarine telecommunications cables is critical infrastructure enabling today's society, susceptible to natural hazards such as earthquakes and submarine landslides and external aggression;
- e) the information obtained from the SMART cables can be used for:
 - i) climate change monitoring and (ocean circulation, heat content and sea level rise)
 - ii) seismic monitoring (earth structure and related hazards)
 - iii) near-to-far field tsunami and earthquake early warning, contributing to disaster risk reduction
 - iv) warning of hazards to cables, and improved routing of cable systems
 - v) quantifying risk to inform sustainable development of coastal and offshore infrastructure
- f) these issues are integral to the United Nations 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, including Sustainable Development Goal 13 Climate, SDG-14 Oceans, SDG-9 Infrastructure and SDG-11 Cities;
- g) the use of public international domain by submarine telecommunications cables might foster the adoption of SMART cables technology.
- h) The UN Decade of Ocean Science for Sustainable Development 2021–2029 will facilitate the implementation of needed, new innovative technology to achieve the SDGs;

noting

- a) JTF SMART Cables has held workshops in each year since its creation and published many papers and reports;
- b) The international decadal conference Ocean Observations 2019 (OceanObs19) recommended: Transition telecommunications + sensing SMART subsea cable systems from present pilots to trans-ocean implementation, to address climate, ocean circulation, sea level, and tsunami and earthquake early warning, ultimately with global coverage;

recognizing

- a) that SMART cables are technically and financially feasible and expected to be field-proven via ongoing demonstrations and proposed pilot systems;
- b) that two SMART cable projects are in progress (i.e., funded or partially funded) and two projects are in proposal stages;

resolves

- 1 to encourage the JTF SMART Cables to continue its activities to promote current and future projects for “wet demonstrators,” pilots, and operational SMART cable systems;
- 2 to promote the concept of SMART cables to facilitate related projects and deployment of SMART cables;

instructs the Telecommunication Standardization Advisory Group

to coordinate the activities of the JTF SMART Cables with ITU-T study groups, other standards development organizations (SDOs), research institutes and other organizations and stakeholders to facilitate collaboration between the JTF SMART Cables and those organizations in order to avoid duplication of efforts;

instructs all study groups of the ITU Telecommunication Standardization Sector

to cooperate with the JTF SMART Cables to develop appropriate Recommendations;

instructs the Director of the Telecommunication Standardization Bureau, in collaboration with the Directors of the other Bureaux

to report on progress of the JTF SMART Cables;

invites the Secretary-General

to continue to cooperate and collaborate with other entities within the United Nations in formulating future international efforts to promote the concept of SMART cables and to contribute to the achievement of the goals of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development,

invites Member States, Sector Members and Associates

to contribute actively to the work of the JTF SMART Cables.