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Agenda item: 8

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TELECOMMUNICATION STANDARDIZATION SECTOR

STUDY PERIOD 2001 - 2004

ITU-T Special Study Group on "IMT-2000 and Beyond"

CHAIRMAN'S LETTER TO EXTERNAL ORGANIZATIONS

TITLE: TOWARDS HARMONIZED IP CORE NETWORK STANDARDS

TO: OHG, 3GPP, AND 3GPP2

APPROVAL: Agreed to at SSG meeting (Rio de Janeiro, 5 September 2001)

20 September 2001

Dear Colleagues,

The ITU-T's Special Study Group on "IMT-2000 and Beyond" (SSG) met in Rio de Janeiro 30 August through 05 September 2001, and I made available to the meeting three letters which relate to harmonization of IMT-2000 systems. We note that we were copy addressees on these letters:

- an open letter to the Chairmen of 3GPP and 3GPP2 from the Chairman of the OHG on "a single common IP Core Network standard" (dated July 10th, 2001);
- a letter from the Chair of 3GPP2's SC dated 23 August 2001 with subject "3GPP2 response to OHG Open Letter");
- a letter from the Chair of 3GPP's TSG-CN to the Chairman of the OHG (dated August 29, 2001).

These letters were considered with interest by the SSG participants. The SSG would like to convey the following points for your consideration:

- (1) The SSG acknowledges the OHG initiative, 3GPP's suggestion that the scope of harmonization needs clarification, and the 3GPP2 proposal for a joint 3GPP-3GPP2 workshop to address this important topic in early 2002. The SSG would be prepared to assist in the process of identifying topics where harmonization would provide benefits to the parties involved;
- (2) The SSG wishes to support and progress and add value to the work on harmonization in an effective manner while avoiding duplication of work already being undertaken in other organizations. In order to help progress this area, the SSG plans to hold a meeting in November 2001 to help identify topics where harmonization would be beneficial to all parties. Progress in

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all standards activities is achieved on the basis of contributions submitted to the meetings, and therefore it would be most helpful if those of your participating member organizations which are also members of the ITU-T were to provide such contributions with a view to help identify the specific topics where harmonization would offer value. These might include consideration of specific topics where harmonization has near term benefits, as well as those where medium and longer term benefits might accrue and might therefore be of interest at a later time;

(3) The workshop being proposed for early 2002 should provide an excellent occasion for furthering understanding of the harmonization topic itself and also for considering ways in which more effective and timely interaction could be fostered among the various organizations interested in the topic. The SSG therefore encourages workshop organizers to facilitate some level of involvement by the SSG.

In summary, the ITU-T SSG commends the initiative by the OHG to harmonize the All-IP core network standards in 3GPP and 3GPP2. We understand that the 3GPPs have the responsibility to develop their own specifications. The ITU-T SSG has no power to make any changes to the specifications. The SSG is willing to provide any support requested by 3GPP and 3GPP2 to assist in harmonization efforts in this area.

I would like to indicate that the Rapporteur for Question 6/SSG (Harmonization of evolving IMT-2000 systems) is Mr. Bruce Pettitt (Nortel Networks (Canada)), and he should therefore be considered as our prime contact on harmonization. His contact information is as follows:

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The SSG looks forward to further interaction with you on this matter. I would like to thank you for keeping the SSG aware of your interest and activities regarding Harmonization, and I look forward to successful collaboration on this and other aspects relating to IMT-2000 systems and beyond.

With best regards,

John Visser

Chairman, ITU-T Special Study Group on "IMT-2000 and Beyond"