

THE ROLE OF THE INTERNATIONAL TELECOMMUNICATIONS UNION IN TIME AND FREQUENCY

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EDITOR'S NOTE: The author originally planned for this paper was ill and could not attend the meeting. Gerrit De Jong of NMI Laboratory, Delft, the Netherlands, who is the Chairman of Working Party 7A of the ITU-R, presented the following slides after only 5 minutes to prepare. It is felt that the information presented is important and thus the slides are reproduced here.

International Telecommunications Union

Telecommunications Standardization Sector

Radiocommunications Sector

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Telecomm. Standards
i.e. modems: V22
SDH

Study Groups
SG7: Science Services
Working Party 7A
Time and Frequency Signals

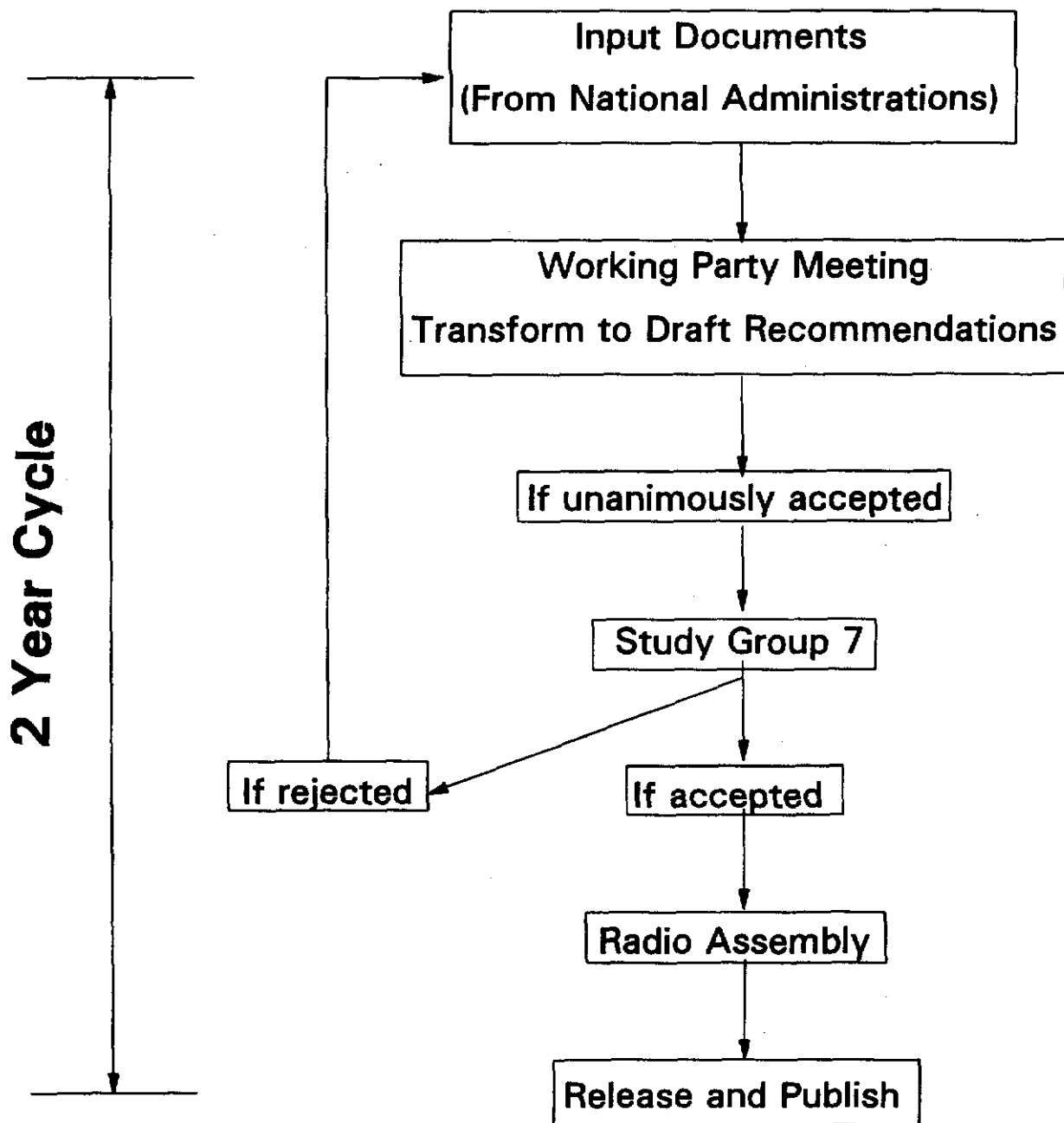
Figure 1. ITU Structure

Recent Topics

- * Recommendation on the use of Two Way Satellite Time and Frequency Transfer
- * Proposal on the use of SDH overhead bits for the purpose of precise time transfer
- * Preparation of Handbooks on Time and Frequency

Figure 2. Working Party 7A Tasks

Figure 3 ITU Working Method



Questions and Answers

DR. GERNOT WINKLER (USNO, RETIRED): One of the greatest difficulties and obstacles in making the recommendations more useful is that they're so difficult to get. Users write to the Observatory, for instance, and ask for copies, which is not the function of the Observatory. Is there any recommendation which could be made to the ITU Headquarters to make them more readily available?

In connection with that there is, of course, the idea of why not include the most important recommendations in the handbook. Are they going to be included or is that separate?

GERRIT de JONG (NMI VAN SWINDEN LAB): They will remain separated. Maybe one of the editors is here who can comment. Dr. Allan?

DAVID ALLAN (ALLAN'S TIME): Thank you, I appreciate your bringing up the handbook. Dr. Sydnor and I are editors of this handbook; and we've been able to get some of the best people in the world to write the chapters for it. The title of the handbook is "Selection and Uses of Precision Time and Frequency Systems." It treats systems, because nowadays we have satellites connected with clocks and things are much more complicated than when we were children.

In regard to Dr. Winkler's question, one thing that's included in this handbook is the glossary, a complete glossary of definition of terms. But beyond that, we have no charter, we can't put any of the recommendations in; even though there's some outstanding information in those recommendations, we don't have the charter to include them.

GERRIT de JONG (NMI VAN SWINDEN LAB): Concerning the documentation, I think you could order through a book seller, and they can get it in Geneva with the ITU. It's not so well known, but it is not difficult to obtain that.

DR. GERNOT WINKLER (USNO, RETIRED): They are sinfully expensive, and a user may need only one recommendation out of the whole thing.

GERRIT de JONG (NMI VAN SWINDEN LAB): Yes, but they're smaller than they used to be, more specific.

DAVID ALLAN (ALLAN'S TIME): There may be one solution. NAVTEC became aware of this — this is an organization that provided seminars and tutorials at the last ILN meeting in Palm Springs in September; and they approached me because they make this available. And the answer is yes, we've contacted the ITU and they can become a resource within the states, for example, for handbooks and for some of these documents which have critical time and frequency information. They have to pay the sinful price, probably with a little commission, but at least they'd be more accessible. They would have advertising so that people would know what's available.

ATTENDEE: I have a question. When will the handbook be released?

GERRIT de JONG (NMI VAN SWINDEN LAB): The handbook is not completed at this moment. But after that, the draft will go to Geneva; they will print it there; and it may have to be translated also in Spanish and French. I'm not sure of that. Normally, they do not release anything before it's translated also into French and Spanish, but I don't know if this is mandatory. I'm not sure if that's still the policy. I hope not, but it's beyond my control.