Human Rights & Standards

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Why Standards Are Important ?

- Standards help technologies work together
- Standards enable interoperability
- Standards facilitate market access
- Standards can play a role in human rights

ITU: A Time-Tested & Trusted Platform

- ITU has a historical legacy
- ITU is a global collaboration platform
- ITU study groups are expert-driven
- Study groups have consensus-based processes

How To Participate?

Study groups & Focus groups

Human Rights Considerations

- Governments have obligations to protect human rights set out under international human rights law, including in the digital context (UN General Assembly, Resolution A/RES/68/167, 2013)

- The Human Rights Council in 2021 with the Resolution 47/23 called for closer cooperation between the UN Human Rights Office (OHCHR) and Standards Development Organizations including the ITU to consider the relationship between technical standards and human rights.

Examples: ITU Study Groups & Initiatives Responding to a Human Rights Related Needs

- Study group 5 on E-waste Management
- WHO & ITU-T Study Group 16 work on Telehealth Accessibility
- Bridging the Standardization Gap
- Network of Women
- Remote participation

Conclusion & Next Steps

- Standards enable products and services to be **safe, reliable, and of high quality**.

- Standards enable **technological advancement** on a global scale, as cost-effectively as possible.

- ITU is looking to **partner** more with OHCHR, international SDOs and other stakeholders to raise awareness for the human rights dimension of technical standards.

- We encourage stakeholders to establish a clear link between technical concepts and human rights. We still need to **translate human rights into technical terms** and to embed human rights into technical standards.

- ITU-T focus groups are **open to all parties**