



Dear Mr. Deepak Pathak:

We, the undersigned associations, appreciate the opportunity to provide feedback to the Telecommunications Engineering Centre (TEC) regarding the adoption of the Telecommunications Standards Development Society, India (TSDSI) transposed standard for 3GPP Release-15 into National Standards.

TEC's consideration of the transposed 3GPP standard and its willingness to consider public comments is a welcome demonstration of India's commitment to engagement with the global information and communications technology (ICT) stakeholder community. We believe a strong partnership between the global ICT industry and government can help support Indian economic prosperity, connect more Indians to high-speed internet, and strengthen the ICT manufacturing ecosystem in India.

3GPP specifications power communications networks around the world and are foundational to the evolving 5G ecosystem. 3GPP is a global organization, designed to support a multitude of use cases, including the servicing of both rural and urban use cases in every continent and geography. India's TSDSI has been a full Organizational Partner in 3GPP since 2015, and it plays an important role in the organization's consensus-driven decision making.

By adopting 3GPP standards as Indian national standards, TEC can strengthen India's status as a manufacturing hub for ICT products and services. By using globally harmonized standards such as those from 3GPP, companies can set up manufacturing operations in India with the confidence that they can easily serve both the Indian market and export to global markets. As 5G becomes fundamental to the fabric of connectivity across industries and as 3GPP continues to periodically release updated specifications that may diverge from and make obsolete country-specific standards, the economic advantages of leveraging globally harmonized technology standards to India's manufacturing ecosystem will only become more apparent.

Adopting 3GPP standards into Indian national standards will advance the pace of 5G network rollout, helping Indians connect to high-speed internet and address the digital divide. By using 3GPP standards, India's telecommunications operators will be able to leverage the economies of scale provided by globally harmonized standards to efficiently iterate on existing networks. 3GPP standards will also enable Indian consumers, companies, and network providers to leverage proven and up-to-date technology solutions from global providers to access the internet, enhancing security and supporting India's continued economic growth. Importantly, the adoption and use of 3GPP's 5G standards will enable Indian manufacturers to compete in markets around the world, supporting the government's goal to strengthen the Indian economy.

Using globally harmonized standards for 5G will also allow the Government of India to work closely with global partners and allies on issues related to emerging technology. Whether in the context of the Quad

Emerging Technology Working Group between India, the U.S., Japan, and Australia; or in other bilateral and multilateral partnerships, global standards are foundational to cooperation on next-generation technologies. Not adopting global standards could set back vital shared work on supply chain security and vendor diversification, which also rely on common standards. Indian participation is vital to the development of an innovative and secure global technology ecosystem, and we welcome Indian stakeholders to further deepen engagement with 3GPP in support of technologies that meet the country's needs.

In summary, we encourage India to faithfully adopt 3GPP Release 15 as a National Standard, avoid efforts that may lead to the fragmentation of globally harmonized standards, and allow India's telecommunications operators to independently choose to deploy technologies conforming to the 5G standard of their choice. We appreciate TEC considering the adoption of 3GPP Release 15 as a national standard, endorse both 3GPP Release 15 & 16 technologies as suitable candidates for national standards, and welcome further opportunities to work with the Government of India to support global standards as they arise.

Signed:

Information Technology Industry Council (ITI)

TechNet

TechUK

Telecommunications Industry Association (TIA)

UK-India Business Council (UKIBC)

US-India Business Council (USIBC)

US-India Strategic Partnership Forum (USISPF)

CC:

Mr. Anshu Prakash, Chairman DCC & Secretary (T)

Ms. Anita Praveen, Additional Secretary (T)

Mr. Bharat Kumar Jog, Member (Services)

Mr. Tushar Kanti Paul, Member (Technology)

Ms. Deepa Tyagi, Sr. DDG, TEC

Mr. Sudhir Bhandari, DDG (Standardization), TEC

Mr. Kishore Babu YGSC, DDG (Standards, Research, Innovation), DoT