



**Department of Telecommunications
Telecommunication Engineering Centre
Khurshid Lal Bhawan, Janpath, New Delhi -110001
(Convergence & Broadcasting Division)
Website : www.tec.gov.in**



No. 4-6/2022-C&B/TEC/Accessibility

dated November 15, 2022

Subject: Audio-Visual content Accessibility Roadmap for India:- reg.

Government of India enacted The Rights of Persons with Disabilities (RPwD) Act, 2016 (The Act), which is the principal and comprehensive legislation concerning persons with disabilities. The Act recommends creating a barrier-free environment by removing all type of discrimination against persons with disabilities where they can share the development benefits which a normal person enjoys. The Section 2g (h) of The Act specifically mentions that television needs to be accessible for persons with hearing impairment.

As per the Act, twenty-one (21) types of disabilities have been recognized and listed under physical disabilities (locomotor disability, visual impairment, hearing impairment, speech and language disability), intellectual disabilities, mental behavior, chronic neurological conditions, blood disorders and multiple disabilities. The Act further mandates the appropriate Government to take measures to ensure that all contents available in audio, print and electronic media are in accessible format and persons with disabilities have access to electronic media by providing audio description, sign language interpretation, and close captioning.

2. The Act also envisages laying down of the standards for accessibility. India has laid down guidelines for accessibility of websites and mobile apps, through inclusion of mandatory accessibility guidelines for government sites. Further, the concerned Government Departments / organisations have announced updated policies, standards and guidelines after detailed stakeholder consultations in respect of accessibility requirements in sectors such as telecom, broadcasting, urban development, education, banking, etc. Some such documents include MIB report of September 2019 on "Accessibility Standards for Persons with Disabilities in Television Programmes"; BIS reports of 2021 & 2022 on "Accessibility for the ICT Products and Services"; TRAI report of 2018 on "Recommendations on Making ICT accessible for Persons with Disabilities", and National Digital Communications Policy 2018.

3. Telecommunication Engineering Centre (TEC) is working on publishing a "**Technical Report on Audio-Visual Content Accessibility Roadmap for India**". In this regard, TEC invites comments/ suggestions from the stakeholders on the subject matter. Further, many start-ups /SMEs/ NGOs are working on enhanced accessibility of audio-visual content. This report may also have a compendium of the work done by the Indian companies / SMEs / Start-ups / NGOs in the field of audio-visual content accessibility. Therefore, TEC would request the concerned organisations to send details of their work in this area.

4. Kindly send your inputs / comments / suggestions / information as requested above **by 06-12-2022** to dircb2.tec-dot@gov.in with copy to avinash.70@gov.in .

(Avinash Agarwal)
DDG (Convergence & Broadcasting)

To:

The Concerned Stakeholders / Start-ups/ SMEs/ NGOs/ Associations / Federations.