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Technical Implementation Body

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Item 5 (b) (ii) of the provisional agenda
eTIR conceptual, functional and technical specifications:
Version 4.4

New proposals by the secretariat

Note by the secretariat

I. Introduction and mandate

1.   This document presents potential improvements for the eTIR specifications, version 4.4, identified by the secretariat during the preparation of the eTIR specifications, the development of the eTIR international system or eTIR interconnection projects.

II. New amendment proposals

A. Overview of changes

2.   Chapter 2.7 of the eTIR technical specifications, version 4.3, contains all the changes made to eTIR messages since the original version of the eTIR reference model. Further to the adoption of version 4.3, for version 4.4, Technical Implementation Body (TIB) might wish to instruct the secretariat to restart the list of changes from version 4.3.

3.   The secretariat keeps track of all the changes applied to the eTIR data model and to eTIR messages in a tool dedicated for the maintenance of the eTIR data model. While extracting information from the tool is relatively easy, the preparation of Chapter 2.7 is very time-consuming. In order to facilitate and speed up the preparation of the eTIR functional specifications, as well as their translation, the tables presenting the overview of changes for all eTIR messages could be kept on the eTIR website and removed from the eTIR functional specifications.

B. Modelling diagrams

1. Class diagrams

4.   UML Class diagrams used in version 4.3 of the eTIR functional specifications contain not only classes, their relationships and their attributes, but also a set of methods that were aimed at facilitating the development of the eTIR international system. As such, these

methods have little to no use for the countries that wish to amend their customs system to implement the eTIR procedure. With that in mind and to streamline the eTIR specifications, TIB might wish to consider instructing the secretariat to remove those methods from the class diagrams to be used in version 4.4 of the eTIR specifications.

2. Business process model and notation

5.   In version 4.3 of the eTIR specifications, in line with the Unified Modelling Methodology chosen originally for the eTIR project, the modelling of processes is done using UML activity and sequence diagrams. In recent years, the business process model and notation (BPMN) has gained in popularity in both the business and Information and Communication Technologies (ICT) communities and is, therefore, better understood by laymen and experts alike. With that in mind, TIB might wish to consider if, in version 4.4 of the eTIR specifications, BPMN should replace the activity and sequence diagrams used in version 4.3.

C. Structure of the eTIR specifications

6.   The eTIR specifications version 4.3 has been developed over many years, the eTIR technical specifications being the latest document to have been completed. While this document contains the technical requirements for the functioning of the eTIR system, the secretariat is of the view that it now also contains functional requirement as well as information that could be presented in other separate documents, such as the eTIR technical implementation guides developed by the secretariat. TIB may wish to consider if, before starting work on version 4.4. of the eTIR specifications, a reorganization of the structure of the various documents comprising the eTIR specifications could further improve its quality and streamline its maintenance. TIB may consider mandating the secretariat to prepare a detailed proposal for one of its next sessions.

III.   Considerations by the Technical Implementation Body

7.   TIB may wish to consider the above proposals and instruct the secretariat accordingly.

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