ITU-T Study Group 17 has noted TD 0108 from the TSB that informs us that ISO/IEC 10646 will shortly be published as common text under the procedures for joint work established by JTC 1 and ITU-T. This responsibility resides with Study Group 16 on the ITU-T side and SC 2 on the JTC 1 side.

The TSB has surveyed the current references in ITU-T Recommendations to ISO/IEC 10646 and to the Unicode Consortium specification and considers it desirable for all future editions of ITU-T Recommendations to be able to reference only the joint Recommendation | International Standard.

This liaison statement informs SC 2 and SG 16 of the reasons why some SG 17 Recommendations currently reference the Unicode Consortium specification as well as ISO/IEC 10646, and requests that joint work (between SC 2 and SG 16) on future editions of the common text consider the inclusion of sufficient material or normative references to enable reference (from new editions of ITU-T Recommendations) to be made only to the new common text, without the need to reference the Unicode Consortium specification in addition.

NOTE - It may be that this is best achieved by the common text normatively referencing the Unicode Specification for the items identified below (with an appropriate single RER in JTC 1 and A.5 justification in ITU-T, rather than copying text). That would be for discussion as part of the joint work, but would ensure that only a single RER and A.5 was needed, rather than requiring them for each ITU-T Recommendation | ISO/IEC International Standard where such a reference is needed.

The changes we wish to be considered are:

a) Names for ASCII control characters (or a normative reference to ISO/IEC 6429 for these names) should be included.

b) UTF16BE specifications (and the other transformations) should be normatively defined, with the abbreviations as a normative part of the common text.
c) Normative identification of the particular characters that have the "decimal digit property" should be included.

d) More generally, other character properties such as upper/lower case property are also needed for some applications such as Directory matching rules.

e) The Unicode Normalization Forms specified in the Unicode Standard Annex #15 are required to support the Directory normalization rules.

f) Most workers with character sets use the name "Unicode" for the character coding scheme specified jointly in ISO/IEC 10646 and the Unicode Consortium specification. It is recognized that "Unicode" is probably protected by trademark, and cannot be used without the consent of the Unicode Consortium; however, it would be highly desirable for the new common text to include - perhaps qualified in some way - the word "Unicode" in the title of the Recommendation | International Standard; for example: "Unicode Character Set (UCS)" instead of "Universal Multiple-Octet Coded Character Set (UCS)".