Process report from the source code working group

To: UTC
From: Robin Leroy, Source code ad hoc working group
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The source code ad hoc working group was created by consensus 170-C2 of the UTC, on the recommendation of the Properties & Algorithms Group, as described in document L2/22-007R2, section "Proposed Plan", with Mark Davis as the chair.

In the preceding long discussion, it was requested orally that a report be produced on this new process, though that request was not entered as an action item nor as part of revision R2 of L2/22-007. This document is the requested report.

Overall, the source code working group has been a success. The frequent meetings and small membership of internal and external motivated experts have allowed the production of a proposed Unicode Technical Standard, as well as significant amendments to multiple other documents, within nine months of the formation of the group, with some more narrowly scoped changes being produced in the first three months, and making it into Unicode 15.0.

The presence of industry experts allowed us to ensure that the specification was understandable to people who are not Unicode experts, and that the diversity of concerns of downstream standards, implementations, and users was taken into account. The authors recommend that this process be used for future issues that heavily interact with industry specialties outside of internationalization.

Some minor confusion arose on the following procedural issues, for which the authors propose remedies:

1. Action items could not be assigned to the group, as the group has a limited duration. This makes it inconvenient to track tasks given to the group by the UTC.

   - **Recommendation:** Action items could be assigned to the limited-duration group as a co-owner, retaining the PAG (or other permanent group) as the owning group should the limited-duration group dissolve without discharging its action items.

2. Additional confusion arose from the nomenclature of our groups; the objection to assigning an action item to the SCWG was made by pointing out that it is an *ad hoc* group. However, the groups to which action items can be assigned include the Script Ad Hoc Group. It follows that the Script Ad Hoc Group is not an *ad hoc* group.

   Further confusion arose in interactions with ISO/IEC JTC 1/SC 22/WG 21/SG 16, which, attempting to name us only from public documents, came up with the acronym USCAHG "Unicode Source Code Ad Hoc Group", whereas we had been using SCWG "Source Code Working Group" (an acronym coined by the vice-chair of the PAG, which the vice-chair of the SCWG thinks should be pronounced [skwig], by analogy with ZWJ [zwidʒ]).

   It would be useful to have a term for groups like the SCWG that is not overloaded among the three-letter groups of the UTC, and that conveys the idea of producing reports on specific issues.

   - **Recommendation:** To enhance communication with other organizations, groups such as the SCWG should have a designated name, such as *rapporteur group*. Such groups should be defined in the TC procedures. The name of a newly created group should appear in the consensus or motion that creates it.