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Part 60: General guidance on gestures for screen readers

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Partie 60: Recommandations générales relatives aux gestes pour les lecteurs d'écran

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Foreword

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Introduction

Even if users with visual impairments utilize the same hardware as sighted users, it is possible that they will prefer to use different gestures, or to perform the same gestures differently from the sighted users. Sighted users can also perform gestures differently when they lack visual feedback.

Users with visual impairments experience problems in understanding shapes or outlines of gestures for ICT devices, even though they appear simple to sighted users. The critical problem is basically visual information and feedback from ICT devices. Therefore, it is necessary to provide special gestures for users with visual impairments.

Screen readers support their users in identifying and understanding content displayed on a screen of an ICT device. The information about the content is read back to the users out loud by the screen readers which might utilize text–to–speech or braille output devices. While sighted users visually scan and understand the content of the screen, the users with visual impairments utilize screen readers to understand the content. The screen is generally composed of page regions, headings, navigation elements, text links, images, etc. It is necessary for users of screen readers to identify the elements and navigate the pages. Therefore, specially designed gestures of screen readers are required. The gestures need to be standardized for the users of screen readers.

This document provides a general guidance on the standard gestures for screen readers running on various ICT devices. The gestures are primarily utilized by the users of screen readers when they interact with ICT devices. Annex A provides descriptions about specific instances of the gestures for screen readers.