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### UNITED STATES PRELIMINARY VIEWS ON WRC-11

**WRC-11 Agenda 1.2:** taking into account the ITU-R studies carried out in accordance with Resolution 951 (Rev.WRC-07), to take appropriate action with a view to enhancing the international regulatory framework;

**ISSUE:** Identification of concepts and allocation procedures for enhancing the ITU Radio Regulations (RR) to meet requirements of current and future radio applications while taking into account existing services and usage.

**BACKGROUND:** WRC-07 considered the report of ITU studies in response to Resolution 951 (WRC-03) on methods to improve the international spectrum regulatory framework. This report identified a number of options for addressing the evolution of radio applications, systems and technologies.<sup>1</sup> Additionally, WRC-07 adopted a revised version of Resolution 951, calling for urgent studies in order to develop as appropriate, new concepts and procedures for enhancing the Radio Regulations to meet the demands of current, emerging and future radio applications, while taking into account existing services and usage. In particular, it calls for studies aimed at: a) evaluating options for enhancing spectrum management solutions for increased flexibility in meeting new demands; b) developing applicable concepts and procedures including sharing studies on a band-by-band basis to support these options; c) preparing relevant technical and regulatory solutions for consideration and appropriate action at WRC-12.

**DISCUSSION:** The United States recognizes the importance of a spectrum regulatory framework that allows flexible spectrum use, to allow for the evolution of services and technologies, taking into account existing services and usage. Accordingly, the United States has, consistently adopted domestic service rules to accommodate emerging technologies, or, in various instances, sought changes in the ITU Radio Regulations in order to accommodate new or evolving systems.

Though from a U.S perspective, there has generally been success in using the ITU's current spectrum allocation regime to accommodate new services, that regime is not

<sup>1</sup> [cite; Res. 951, Annex]

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- Option 1: keeping the current service definitions and not introducing any changes to the ¶ ITU Radio Regulations (RR) with respect to this agenda item; ¶
- Option 2: reviewing and possibly revising the current service definitions or adding one ¶ or more new services to the list of service definitions, each one encompassing several of ¶ the existing ones;¶
- Option 3: introducing a new provision in the RR enabling substitution between ¶ assignments of specific services; ¶
- Option 4: introducing composite services in the Table of Frequency Allocations. ¶
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always responsive for accommodating rapidly evolving emerging technologies. In some cases this has inhibited promising technology initiatives from innovators seeking global access.

Previously, the ITU membership has recognized the need to accommodate in a timelier manner emerging technologies needing spectrum access for their introduction. Partly in response to this realization, in 1993 the ITU-R went to a two-year WRC cycle.<sup>2</sup> However, while in theory that approach might have been responsive to accommodating emerging technologies, in reality it created a land rush for valuable WRC agenda “real estate”, thus missing any target for accommodating emerging and timely technologies. Moreover, experience with the two-year WRC cycle revealed that the compressed time frame between conferences did not allow sufficient time for completing ITU-R studies often needed to support WRC action on emerging technologies.

Since 1993, the telecommunications landscape has changed dramatically and, now more than ever, there is increasing demand for more spectrum to support more emerging wireless broadband technologies and applications. It has been shown that compressing WRC time cycles does not necessarily address accommodation of new technologies. Consequently, as previewed under this agenda item, it may be prudent to examine decades old ITU spectrum regulation regimes that date back to the 1940s.<sup>3</sup>

In this fast-paced environment, the ITU-R membership should look inward to examine whether its current spectrum management policies remain relevant, or whether they impede (or even stop) the introduction of emerging wireless broadband technologies and applications. While always being mindful of the need to protect existing services, and to carefully evaluate specific cases where new services, technologies and applications might be introduced into particular bands, there is a need to examine the viability, applicability and relevancy of the current ITU-R regulatory framework and spectrum management policy.

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Under Agenda Item 1.2, revisions to the current Radio Regulation framework and to ITU-R spectrum management policy might be done in a number of ways, and could be implemented in a way that does not threaten existing services. With regard to the latter point, one key element – in effect it is already stated in Resolution 951 (WRC-07) – is that prior to the introduction of new services into a band with existing operating services, proper studies should be carried out an approved within the ITU-R.

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Regarding specific revisions, one example approach might be a modification of

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<sup>2</sup> [Cite decision and rationale for two-year cycle]

<sup>3</sup> *See, e.g., Radio Regulations, Annexed to the International Telecommunication Convention (Atlantic City, 1947), available at: [http://www.itu.int/dms\\_pub/itu-s/oth/02/01/S020100002B4506PDFE.pdf](http://www.itu.int/dms_pub/itu-s/oth/02/01/S020100002B4506PDFE.pdf).*

[Recommendation 34 \(WRC-95\)<sup>4</sup> to update it to more squarely address emerging technologies, as well as increasingly blurred service definitions \(i.e., this approach might include an examination of existing service definitions to determine whether they should be more broadly defined, new definitions developed, etc.\). Another example approach would be to adopt a standing WRC agenda item geared to address topical emerging technologies, coupled with a Resolution outlining specific conditions under which an upcoming WRC \*should\* consider a specific emerging technology issue. This approach could help separate topical emerging wireless broadband issues from the future WRC agenda item “land rush” mentality mentioned earlier.](#)

[In light of this discussion, the United States offers the following view on WRC-12 Agenda Item 1.2.](#)

**U.S. VIEW:** [The United States is of the view that there is a need to examine the applicability and relevancy of the current Radio Regulations and ITU-R spectrum management policy to determine whether they are sufficient to address emerging technology issues, or whether they may impede the introduction of emerging wireless broadband technologies and applications.](#) The United States is [also](#) of the view that support for [specific Agenda Item 1.2](#) proposals to WRC-12 [should be evaluated using the guidelines set forth in Annex 2 of Res. 951\(WRC-07\).](#)

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**Deleted:** The United States is also of the ¶ view that studies should be conducted on a frequency band by frequency band basis ¶ consistent with the guidelines in this Annex. The United States may consider supporting ¶ proposals under Agenda Item 1.2 on a case by case basis, taking into account the ¶ guidelines in the Annexes to Resolution 951. The United States does not support large- ¶ scale modifications to the international regulatory framework since it believes that the ¶ current regulatory framework, including the WRC process, is sufficiently flexible to ¶ accommodate new technologies.

<sup>4</sup> [See, Recommendation 34 \(WRC-95\), Principles for allocation of frequency bands \(Geneva 1995\).](#)