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26 January 2011

WAC Informal Working Group (IWG)-4

United States of America

PROPOSALS FOR THE WORK OF THE CONFERENCE

Agenda item 4

Agenda Item 4: *In accordance with Resolution **95 (Rev. WRC-07)**, to review the resolutions and recommendations of previous conferences with a view to their possible revision, replacement or abrogation*

Issue: To review the resolutions and recommendations in the Radio Regulations and to identify potential modifications or suppressions.

Background: This is a standing item on every WRC agenda and its purpose is to examine the WRC resolutions and recommendations for editorial corrections as well as suppressions due to completion of work or material being superseded by other work. This includes consequential suppression or modification of resolutions associated with WRC-12 agenda items.

Emergency telecommunications has been identified as a top priority for all ITU Member States. Since WRC-07, the United States has actively supported the work of the ITU in all three sectors related to use of telecommunications/ICTs for disaster prediction, mitigation, relief, response and recovery. In order to take account of developments since 2007 and to reinforce the importance of ongoing work in the ITU Radiocommunication Sector in support of emergency telecommunications, the United States proposes modification of Resolution 644 (Rev. WRC-07) 'Radiocommunication resources for early warning, disaster mitigation and relief operations' and Resolution 647 (WRC-07) 'Spectrum management guidelines for emergency and disaster relief radiocommunication.'

Proposals:

Resolution 644 (Rev. WRC-07)

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RESOLUTION 644 (REV.WRC-12)

Radiocommunication resources for early warning, disaster mitigation and relief operations

The World Radiocommunication Conference (Rev. Geneva, 2012),

considering

a) that administrations have been urged to take all practical steps to facilitate the rapid deployment and effective use of telecommunication resources for early warning, disaster mitigation and disaster relief operations by reducing and, where possible, removing regulatory barriers and strengthening global, regional and transborder cooperation between States;

b) that modern telecommunication technologies are an essential tool for disaster mitigation and relief operations and the vital role of telecommunications and ICT for the safety and security of relief workers in the field;

c) the particular needs of developing countries and the special requirements of the inhabitants living in high risk areas exposed to disasters, as well as those living in remote areas;

d) the work carried out by the Telecommunication Standardization Sector in standardizing the common alerting protocol (CAP), through the approval of the relevant CAP Recommendation;

e) that, under the Strategic Plan of the Union 2012-2015, "the need for effective use of telecommunications/ICTs and modern technologies during critical emergencies, as a crucial part of disaster prediction, detection, early-warning, mitigation, management and relief strategies" is considered a priority for the ITU in this period;

f) that the majority of terrestrial networks in affected areas were damaged during recent disasters,

recognizing

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a) Article 40 of the Constitution, on priority of telecommunications concerning safety of life;

b) Article 46 of the Constitution, on distress calls and messages;

c) No. 91 of the Tunis Agenda for the Information Society adopted by the second phase of the World Summit on the Information Society and in particular provision c): "Working expeditiously towards the establishment of standards-based monitoring and worldwide early-warning systems linked to national and regional networks and facilitating emergency disaster response all over the world, particularly in high-risk regions";

d) Resolution 34 (Rev. Hyderabad, 2010) of the World Telecommunication Development Conference on the role of telecommunications/information and communication technologies in disaster preparedness, early warning, rescue, mitigation, relief and response, as well as ITU-D Question 22/2 "Utilization of telecommunications/ICT for disaster preparedness, mitigation and response";

e) Resolution 36 (Rev. Guadalajara, 2010) of the Plenipotentiary Conference on telecommunications/information and communication technology in the service of humanitarian assistance;

f) Resolution 136 (Guadalajara, 2010) of the Plenipotentiary Conference on the use of telecommunications/information and communication technologies for monitoring and management in emergency and disaster situations for early warning, prevention, mitigation and relief;

g) Resolution ITU-R 53 of the Radiocommunication Assembly (Geneva, 2007), on the use of radiocommunications in disaster response and relief;

h) Resolution ITU-R 55 of the Radiocommunication Assembly (Geneva, 2007), on the ITU-R studies of disaster prediction, detection, mitigation and relief,

noting

the close relation of this Resolution with Resolution **646 (WRC-03)** on public protection and disaster relief and Resolution 647 [(Rev. WRC-12)] on spectrum management guidelines for emergency and disaster relief radiocommunication, and the need to coordinate activities under these Resolutions in order to prevent any possible overlap,

resolves

1 that the ITU Radiocommunication Sector (ITU-R) continue to study, as a matter of urgency, those aspects of radiocommunications/ICT that are relevant to early warning, disaster mitigation and relief operations, such as decentralized means of telecommunications that are appropriate and generally available, including amateur terrestrial and satellite radio facilities, mobile and portable satellite terminals, as well as the use of passive space-based sensing systems;

2 to urge the ITU-R Study Groups, taking into account the scope of ongoing studies/activities appended to Resolution ITU-R 55 of the Radiocommunication Assembly [(Rev. Geneva,

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2012)], to accelerate their work, particularly in the areas of disaster prediction, detection, mitigation and relief,

instructs the Director of the Radiocommunication Bureau

1 to support administrations in their work towards the implementation of both Resolutions 36 (Rev. Guadalajara, 2010) and 136 (Guadalajara, 2010), as well as the Tampere Convention;

2 to collaborate, as appropriate, with the United Nations Working Group on Emergency Telecommunications (WGET);

4 to participate in, and contribute to, Telecommunications for Disaster Relief and Mitigation – Partnership Coordination Panel (PCP-TDR);

5 to synchronize activities between this Resolution, Resolution **646 (WRC-03)** and Resolution 647 [(Rev. WRC-12)] to prevent a possible overlap.

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Resolution 647 (WRC-07)

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Resolution 647 (Rev. WRC-12)

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Spectrum management guidelines for emergency and disaster relief radiocommunication[1]

The World Radiocommunication Conference (Rev. Geneva, 2012),

considering,

a) the Tampere Convention on the Provision of Telecommunications Resources for Disaster Mitigation and Relief Operations (Tampere, 1998)[2], an international treaty deposited with the

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[1] The term "emergency and disaster relief radiocommunication" refers to radiocommunications used by agencies and organizations dealing with a serious disruption of the functioning of society, posing a significant widespread threat to human life, health, property or the environment, whether caused by accident, natural phenomena or human activity, and whether occurring suddenly or as a result of complex, long-term processes.

United Nations Secretary-General, calls on the States Parties, when possible, and in conformity with their national law, to develop and implement measures to facilitate the availability of telecommunication resources for such operations;

b) that some administrations may have different operational needs and spectrum requirements for emergency and disaster-relief applications, depending on the circumstances;

c) that the immediate availability of pre-identified and pre-coordinated frequencies, and/or spectrum-flexible technologies to allow near-instantaneous decisions to make use of available spectrum, are important for successful telecommunications in the very early stages of humanitarian assistance intervention for disaster relief,

recognizing

a) Resolution 36 (Rev. Guadalajara, 2010) of the Plenipotentiary Conference on telecommunications/information and communication technologies (ICTs) in the service of humanitarian assistance;

b) Resolution 136 (Rev. Guadalajara, 2010) of the Plenipotentiary Conference on the use of telecommunications/information and communication technologies for monitoring and management in emergency and disaster situations for early warning, prevention, mitigation and relief;

c) Resolution 34 (Rev. Hyderabad, 2010) of the World Telecommunication Development Conference (WTDC) on the role of telecommunications/information and communication technologies in disaster preparedness, early warning, rescue, mitigation, relief and response, as well as ITU-D Question 22/1-2 "Utilization of telecommunications/ICT for disaster preparedness, mitigation and response";

d) Resolution 48 (Rev. Hyderabad, 2010) of WTDC on strengthening cooperation among telecommunication regulators;

e) Resolution **644 [(Rev.WRC-12)]** on radiocommunication resources for early warning, disaster mitigation and relief operations;

f) Programme 5 (Least developed countries, countries in special need, emergency telecommunications, and climate change adaptation), a revised version of which was adopted by WTDC (Hyderabad, 2010);

g) Resolution **646 (WRC-03)** on public protection and disaster relief;

h) Recommendation ITU-R M.1637, which offers guidance to facilitate the global circulation of radiocommunication equipment in emergency and disaster relief situations;

i) Recommendation ITU-R M.1854, "Use of mobile satellite service (MSS) in disaster response and relief", and Recommendation ITU-R S.1001-2, "Use of systems in the fixed-satellite service in the event of natural disasters and similar emergencies for warning and

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[2] However, a number of countries have not ratified the Tampere Convention.

relief operations, which provide information on the range of radio-frequencies that can be used by MSS and FSS systems for emergency and disaster relief operations,

i) Report ITU-R M.2033, which contains information on some bands or parts thereof which have been designated for disaster relief operations,

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aware

of the progress made in regional organizations around the world, and in particular in regional telecommunication organizations, on matters related to emergency communications planning and response,

recognizing further

a) Resolution ITU-R 55 of the Radiocommunication Assembly [(Rev. Geneva, 2012)], which invites the ITU-R Study Groups to take into consideration the scope of ongoing studies/activities outlined in the annex to the Resolution, and to develop guidelines related to the management of radiocommunications in disaster prediction, detection, mitigation and relief, collaboratively and cooperatively, within ITU and with organizations external to the Union, in order to avoid duplication of effort;

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b) Resolution ITU-R 53 of the Radiocommunication Assembly [(Rev. Geneva, 2012)], which instructs the Director of the Radiocommunication Bureau to assist Member States with their emergency radiocommunication preparedness activities such as the listing of currently available frequencies for use in emergency situations for inclusion in a database maintained by the Bureau,

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noting

a) that when a disaster occurs, the disaster relief agencies are usually the first on the scene using their day-to-day communication systems, but that in most cases other agencies and organizations may also be involved in disaster relief operations;

b) that there is a critical requirement to perform immediate spectrum management actions, including frequency coordination, sharing and spectrum reuse, within a disaster area;

c) that national spectrum planning for emergency and disaster relief should take into account the need for cooperation and bilateral consultation with other concerned administrations, which can be facilitated by spectrum harmonization and/or spectrum-flexible technology, as well as agreed spectrum management guidelines pertaining to disaster relief and emergency planning;

d) that in times of disasters, radiocommunication facilities may be destroyed or impaired and the national regulatory authorities may not be able to provide the necessary spectrum management services for the deployment of radio systems for relief operations;

e) that the identification of frequency availability within individual administrations within which equipment could operate, or the use of spectrum-flexible equipment that allows for

operation in various spectrum-access scenarios, may ease the interoperability and/or interworking, with mutual cooperation and consultation, especially in national, regional and cross-border emergency situations and disaster relief activities,

noting further

a) that flexibility must be afforded to disaster relief agencies and organizations to use current and future radiocommunications, so as to facilitate their humanitarian operations;

b) that it is in the interest of administrations and disaster relief agencies and organizations to have access to updated information on national spectrum planning for emergency and disaster relief,

resolves

1 to encourage administrations to consider global and/or regional frequency bands/ranges for emergency and disaster relief when undertaking their national planning and to communicate this information to the Bureau;

2 to encourage administrations to maintain available frequencies for use in the very early stages of humanitarian assistance intervention for disaster relief,

instructs the Director of the Radiocommunication Bureau

1 to assist Member States with their emergency communication preparedness activities by establishing a database of currently available frequencies for use in emergency situations, which are not limited to those listed in Resolution **646 (WRC-03)**, and by issuing an appropriate listing, taking into account Resolution ITU-R 53 of the Radiocommunication Assembly [(Rev. Geneva, 2012)];

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2 to maintain the database and facilitate online access thereto by administrations, national regulatory authorities, disaster relief agencies and organizations, in particular the United Nations Emergency Relief Coordinator, in accordance with the operating procedures developed for disaster situations;

3 to collaborate with the United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs and other organizations, as appropriate, in the development and dissemination of standard operating procedures and relevant spectrum management practices for use in the event of a disaster situation;

4 to take into consideration all relevant activities in ITU's other two Sectors and General Secretariat;

5 to report on the progress on this Resolution to subsequent World Radiocommunication Conferences,

invites ITU-R

to conduct studies as necessary, and as a matter of urgency, in support of the establishment of appropriate spectrum management guidelines applicable in emergency and disaster relief operations,

urges administrations

1 to participate in the emergency communication preparedness activities described above and to provide the relevant information to the Bureau concerning their national frequency allocations and spectrum management practices for emergency and disaster relief radiocommunications, taking into account Resolution ITU-R 53 of the Radiocommunication Assembly [(Rev. Geneva, 2012)];

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2 to assist in keeping the database up to date by advising the Bureau on an ongoing basis of any modifications to the information requested above.