

**RESOLUTION 34 (ISTANBUL, 2002):**  
**TELECOMMUNICATION RESOURCES IN THE SERVICE OF HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE**

The World Telecommunication Development Conference (Istanbul, 2002),

*considering*

- a) that the Intergovernmental Conference on Emergency Telecommunications (Tampere, 1998) (ICET-98) adopted the Convention on the Provision of Telecommunication Resources for Disaster Mitigation and Relief Operations (Tampere Convention);
- b) that the Plenipotentiary Conference (Minneapolis, 1998), convinced that the Tampere Convention provides the necessary framework for the unhindered use of telecommunication resources for disaster mitigation and disaster relief operations, in its Resolution 36 (Rev.Minneapolis, 1998), urged Member States to work towards the earliest possible ratification of the Tampere Convention;
- c) that the Valletta Declaration adopted at the World Telecommunication Development Conference (Valletta, 1998) included among a number of pressing issues, the importance of emergency telecommunications and the need for an international convention on this subject;
- d) that the World Radiocommunication Conference (Istanbul, 2000), in its Resolution 644, urged administrations to give their full support to the adoption and national implementation of the Tampere Convention;
- e) that the second Tampere Conference on Disaster Communications (Tampere, 2001) (CDC-01) invited ITU to study the use of public mobile networks for early warning and the dissemination of emergency information and the operational aspects of emergency telecommunications such as call prioritization,

*noting*

that activities are being undertaken at the international, regional and national levels within ITU and other relevant organizations to establish internationally agreed means to operate systems for public protection and disaster relief on a harmonized and coordinated basis,

*further noting*

the publication of the ITU-D Handbook on Disaster Communications and the adoption of Recommendation ITU-D 13 on Effective Utilization of the Amateur Services in Disaster Mitigation and Relief Operations,

*recognizing*

that the recent tragic events in the world clearly demonstrate the need for high-quality communications services to assist public safety and disaster relief agencies in minimizing risk to human life and to cover the necessary general public information and communication needs in such situations,

*resolves*

to invite ITU-D to continue to ensure that proper consideration be given to emergency telecommunications as an element of telecommunication development, including, in close coordination and collaboration with ITU-R and ITU-T and other relevant international organizations, by facilitating and encouraging the use of decentralized means of communications that are appropriate and generally available, including those provided by the amateur radio service and satellite and terrestrial network services,

*instructs the Director of the Telecommunication Development Bureau (BDT)*

1 to support administrations in their work towards the implementation of this resolution and of the Tampere Convention;

2 to report to the next world telecommunication development conference on the status of implementation of the Convention,

*requests the Secretary-General*

to work closely with the office of the United Nations Emergency Relief Coordinator and other relevant external organizations with a view to further increasing the Union's involvement in, and support to, emergency communications, and to report on the outcome of related international conferences and meetings so that the Plenipotentiary Conference or the ITU Council may take any action that they deem necessary,

*invites*

the United Nations Emergency Relief Coordinator and the Working Group on Emergency Telecommunications and the other relevant external organizations or bodies to collaborate closely with ITU in work towards implementing this resolution and the Tampere Convention, and supporting administrations and international and regional telecommunication organizations in the implementation of the Convention,

*urges administrations*

to work towards the entry into force of the Tampere Convention by the timely ratification of the Convention by the appropriate national authorities\*.

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\* NOTE - A minimum of 30 ratifications of the Tampere Convention is needed by the deadline of 21 June 2003.