

# THE GENEVA 1989 AGREEMENT, REVISED 2006

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## 1 Introduction

The GE89 Agreement for VHF/UHF television broadcasting in the African Broadcasting Area and neighbouring countries has been ensuring increased TV service in the planning area for more than 16 years.

In June 2006, in parallel with the Regional Radiocommunication Conference for planning the digital terrestrial broadcasting service in parts of Regions 1 and 3, in the frequency bands 174-230 MHz and 470-862 MHz (RRC-06), a smaller conference was held to revise the GE89 Agreement, limiting its scope to the bands not covered by the main conference.

This document describes the GE89 Agreement as revised in 2006 in particular the Article 4 Plan modification procedure

## 2 Scope of the Agreement

The Agreement is now officially entitled “Regional Agreement relating to the Planning of VHF/UHF Television Broadcasting in the African Broadcasting Area and Neighbouring Countries, Geneva, 1989 (as revised by RRC-06-Rev.GE89)”.

This Agreement continues to regulate the use of VHF/UHF bands for television broadcasting stations by the countries of the African Broadcasting Area (ABA) and neighbouring countries but limits to the frequency bands described in section 3.

## 3 Planning area

As defined in Articles 5.10-5.13 of the Radio Regulations, ABA means African countries, parts of countries, territories and groups of territories situated between the parallels 40° South and 30° North; islands in the Indian Ocean west of meridian 60° East of Greenwich, situated between the parallel 40° South and the great circle arc joining the points 45° East, 11° 30' North and 60° East, 15° North; and islands in the Atlantic Ocean situated between the parallels 40° South and 30° North. [Please add neighbouring countries]

## 4 Frequency bands:

The remaining frequency bands governed by the GE89 Agreement are:

- 47-68 MHz (the Plan is limited to the band 54-68 MHz in the following countries: Botswana, Burundi, Lesotho, Malawi, Namibia, Rwanda, South Africa, Swaziland, Zaire, Zambia and Zimbabwe);
- 230-238 MHz and 246-254 MHz for the countries listed in No. 5.252 of the Radio Regulations;

Among the most important provisions in the Final Acts are:

- Article 4 which deals with modifications to the Plan and the coordination criteria (explicitly defined in Annex 4 of the Final Acts) to be applied for services which share the bands with television broadcasting (see Annex 5);
- Annex 2, containing the technical data used during the Conference, which may also be used in subsequent coordination discussions.

## **5 Plan assignments:**

At the time of its entry into force, the Plan contained 10 313 stations. At the end of 2005 it contained 15747 stations. Since all the entries in the bands 174-230 and 572-862 MHz have moved to the GE06 Plan as a result of the RRC-06-Rev.GE89 conference, there are now only 221 recorded assignments in Bands I and III.

## **6 Plan modification procedure**

When a television station of a given administration is to be established, or its characteristics are to be modified, neighbouring administrations must be consulted if the station does not comply with specific limits in the Agreement. These limits pertain to the protection of television services as well as to the protection of the fixed and mobile services:

- when it is a matter of protecting the television service against other television stations, these limits are minimum distances between the television station and the nearest point on the border of the neighbouring country. They depend on effective radiated power and effective antenna height. To avoid unjustified refusals, the Agreement specifies values of the interfering field-strength which the administration consulted should normally accept.
- when it is a matter of protecting the fixed and mobile services, these limits are expressed as field-strength values not to be exceeded at the site of the station to be protected.
- when it is a matter of protecting the television service from the fixed and mobile services, these limits are expressed as field-strength values not to be exceeded at the site of the station to be protected.

Coordination, when necessary, is effected through the BR, although administrations may directly seek the agreement of the other administrations concerned.

The time-limit for submitting comments is 100 days from publication in Part A. If no comment has been received by that time, or if an agreement has been reached with administrations that have made comments, the administration on whose behalf the proposed modification was published informs the BR, which then considers that the required coordination for the proposed modification has been completed and updates the Plan accordingly. The BR then publishes this information in Part B of Special Section GE89 on the BRIFIC DVD-ROM. A summary is also published on the ITU web page.

A simplified procedure applies for minor modifications, such as slight changes in geographical coordinates, or for modifications which would only reduce the probability of interference, such as power reductions. Such modifications are directly published in Part B of the Special Section and entered into the Plan.

## **6.1. Features of the GE89 Plan modification procedure**

Some features of the GE89 Plan modification procedure are:

- Publication in Part A of a Special Section
- 100 days comment period
- BR reminders at 50 & 70 days
- No comment = AGREEMENT
- Must request publication in Part B
- Unused modifications removed after 465 days

## **6.2 Normal acceptance of a proposed modification**

A proposed modification should normally be accepted if the nuisance field strength of the proposed modification calculated at the site of an existing assignment in the Plan is:

- < 47 dBu for Band I
- < 53 dBu for Band III

Annex 1 to this document describes the time-limits involved in the Article 4 procedure.

ANNEX 1

**Time-limits for notification and comments relating to modifications under Article 4**

	<b>GE89</b>	
Action by administrations or BR	No. of days	Paragraph of Agreement
Administrations notify BR of their modifications		4.2.6
BR identifies administrations affected		4.2.8a
BR sends telex to administrations affected	0 days	4.2.8b
BR publishes an SS	0 days	4.28c - maximum of 90 days from receipt of notification
Administrations not on list but which consider themselves affected notify BR	40 days	4.3.2
BR sends telex to administrations considering themselves affected		4.3.3
BR sends telex to administrations that have not acknowledged receipt		4.3.5
BR sends telex to administrations that have not given a decision	70 days	4.3.11
End of normal period for comments	100 days	4.3.10 and 4.3.3
End of extended period for comments	114 days	4.3.11 - only applies in cases where one or more administrations have asked BR for additional information or technical studies
If there is still disagreement, BR makes studies and informs the administrations concerned		4.3.12
Administrations request publication in Part B	<465 days	4.6.1