

United States of America

ON DEFINITIONS OF TECHNOLOGY IN RELEVANT REPORTS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

1 Introduction

At recent ITU-R study group meetings the issue has arisen of how best to record definitions of appropriate technology developed within ITU-R study groups and working parties so as to support the work of the ITU-R.

2 Discussion

Article 4.1 provides that Member States shall endeavour to adopt the latest technical advances as soon as possible. In order for ITU-R Study Groups and Working Parties to effectively address technical issues facing technology innovators and operators, it may be useful to have a common working definition of technological terms. The current Radio Regulations for the most part define radiocommunication *services*, and not technology or technology applications. In part this is done to provide flexibility to administrations, including to facilitate the adoption of the latest technical advances. Indeed, Recommendation 34 (WRC-95) refers to the allocation of frequency bands to the most broadly defined *services* in order to improve flexibility of use but without detriment to other *services*. The Recommendation recognizes that it is *services* that are to be defined and to be protected. Technology and technological applications need not, and indeed should not for the sake of expediently adopting the latest technical advances, be defined within the Radio Regulations. However, it may be appropriate to adopt common definitions of new technology or its application within Study Group or Working Party Reports or Recommendations, including through the Coordination Committee for Vocabulary (CCV) review process. When appropriate, definitions of technology or applications within Reports or Recommendations may facilitate a common understanding of technology, in order to support the adoption of advanced technology in the Member States, without the more time-consuming, inappropriate and unnecessary process of changing the Radio Regulations to define technology or applications. Resolution ITU-R 34-2 recognizes the role of Study Groups in proposing definitions. Including definitions of new technology in Study Group or Working Party Reports or Recommendations is more conducive to Study Group deliberative procedures. Including definitions of new technology, when appropriate, in Reports and Recommendations and through CCV review, instead of in the Radio Regulations, would be consistent with the goal of Recommendation 34 (WRC-95) to provide administrations with the maximum flexibility in spectrum use.

3 Proposal

In light of the discussion above, the United States proposes that the RAG advise the Director to provide guidance to the Study Groups that, to the extent the Study Groups and Working Parties believe an agreed definition would facilitate their work, such definitions of new technology and technology applications be included in Study Group or Working Party Reports or Recommendations, and not in the Radio Regulations.
