



Radiocommunication Bureau
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Administrative Circular
CA/189

18 March 2010

**To Administrations of Member States of the ITU and
Radiocommunication Sector Members**

Subject: Summary of Conclusions of the seventeenth Radiocommunication Advisory Group Meeting

Reference: Administrative Circular CA/185 of 2 November 2009

1 The Radiocommunication Advisory Group (RAG) met for the seventeenth time from 17 to 19 February 2010 in Geneva.

2 The Report of the meeting is contained in Annex 1 to this letter, which includes the Summary of Conclusions of the meeting comprising two parts:

Part A covers items discussed on 17 and 18 February 2010 and which was approved by the RAG on 19 February 2010.

Part B covers items discussed on 19 February 2010 and records the conclusions as understood by the Secretariat.

3 In the period of two weeks following the meeting, comments from participants were received by the Secretariat. Since these comments addressed only those discussions summarised in Part A of the Summary of Conclusions, the secretariat was not in a position to modify the text already prepared by the RAG. However, the comments received are published in Annex 2, for information.

Valery Timofeev
Director, Radiocommunication Bureau

- Annexes:**
1. Report of the seventeenth RAG meeting
 2. Comments by participants on the Summary of Conclusions

Distribution:

- Administrations of Member States of the ITU
- Radiocommunication Sector Members
- Chairmen and Vice-Chairmen of Radiocommunication Study Groups and Special Committee on Regulatory/Procedural Matters
- Chairman and Vice-Chairmen of the Radiocommunication Advisory Group
- Chairman and Vice-Chairmen of the Conference Preparatory Meeting
- Members of the Radio Regulations Board
- Secretary-General of the ITU, Director of the Telecommunication Standardization Bureau, Director of the Telecommunication Development Bureau

ANNEX 1

REPORT OF THE SEVENTEENTH MEETING OF THE RADIOCOMMUNICATION ADVISORY GROUP

Geneva, 17-19 February 2010

1 Introduction

The Radiocommunication Advisory Group (RAG) held its seventeenth meeting in Geneva, from 17-19 February 2010, under the chairmanship of Mr. J.B. Yao Kouakou (Côte d'Ivoire), and assisted by Vice-Chairmen Mr. Y. Al-Bulushi (Oman), Mr. A. Magenta (Italy), Ms. H. Seong (Rep. of Korea), Ms. A.L. Allison (The Boeing Company/USA) and Mr. V. Strelets (Russian Fed.). The meeting was attended by 103 delegates representing 44 Member States, and 9 Sector Members, including 2 international organizations¹.

2 Opening remarks and approval of the agenda

Following the opening remarks of the Deputy Secretary-General, the Director of the Radiocommunication Bureau and the Chairman of the RAG, in the presence of the Director of the Telecommunication Standardization Sector, the agenda was approved and is shown in **Attachment 1**.

3 Summary of Conclusions

The summary of conclusions of the meeting is contained in **Attachment 2**.

4 Date of next meeting

The next RAG meeting was foreseen to be held in the period 27 June – 8 July 2011, the exact dates to be confirmed, (subsequently confirmed as 27-29 June 2011).

Attachments: 2

¹ The list of participants is contained in Document RAG10-1/31.

Attachment 1
AGENDA
SEVENTEENTH MEETING OF THE
RADIOCOMMUNICATION ADVISORY GROUP

Geneva, 17-19 February 2010
(Room B, ITU Tower)

	Document RAG10-1/	
1	Opening remarks	
2	Approval of the agenda	
3	Council and Plenipotentiary issues	
3.1	Decisions of Council-09 relevant to RAG	1 (§2)
3.2	Other Council and Plenipotentiary issues	16 (§2.5), 19, 20, 23 (§5), 27
4	Study Group activities:	
4.1	Working methods and activities of the ITU-R Study Groups	1 (§ 3.1, 3.3, Add.2), 2, 5, 10, 12, 14, 15, 18, 23, 26
4.2	Study Group preparations for WRC-12	1 (§ 3.2), 17
4.3	Liaison and collaboration with ITU-T and ITU-D Sectors and with other Organisations	1 (§ 3.4), 3, 6, 8, 9, 11, 13, 16, 24, 25, 26, 28
4.4	Report by the Chairman of the Correspondence Group on EDH	4
5	WRC issues	
5.1	WRC-07 post-conference activities	1 (§ 4.1)
5.2	WRC-12 preparations	1 (§ 4.2)
6	Strategic, Financial and Operational Plan	1 (§ 6)
6.1	Performance Report for 2009	
6.2	Draft Operational Plan for 2011-2014	
6.3	Report by the Chairman of the Correspondence Group on Operational Plan	
6.4	Progress reports on the preparation of the draft Strategic and Financial Plans for 2012-2015	7, 22
7	Seminars and Workshops	1 (§ 5)
8	Inter-Sector activities	1 (§ 7), 21
9	Date of next meeting	
10	Any other business	
-	Statistics on Sector Member participation	1(Add.1)

J.B. YAO KOUAKOU
Chairman, Radiocommunication Advisory Group

Attachment 2

SEVENTEENTH MEETING OF THE RADIOCOMMUNICATION ADVISORY GROUP

Geneva, 17-19 February 2010

SUMMARY OF CONCLUSIONS

Part A – Summary of conclusions of discussions held 17 and 18 February 2010

1 Agenda item 3: Council and plenipotentiary issues

1.1 Agenda item 3.2: Other Council and plenipotentiary issues

1.1.1 Concerning Documents 16 §2.5 (USA) and 19 (USA): RAG, having considered Document 19 (USA) concerning the rights and obligations of Sector Members in ITU-R, also took note of the information available from the Summary Report of the January 2010 meeting of the Council Group on the Financial Regulations. Group FINREGS considered the financial implications of a) the admission of academia, universities and their associated research establishments in the work of the ITU, and b) the admission of Sector Members from developing countries in the work of ITU. RAG noted that the matter will be further discussed at the Council session in April 2010 and invited those with an interest in the subjects to prepare contributions to that meeting.

1.1.2 Concerning Documents 20 (USA) and 27 (Brazil): On the subject of free on-line access to ITU-R Recommendations and the Radio Regulations, RAG concluded the following:

- free on-line access to ITU-R Recommendations and Radio Regulations will have a positive effect towards developing and promoting the main goals of the Radiocommunication Sector;
- final decisions should be taken by Council in April 2010 and at PP-10;
- some administrations are in favour of continuing further studies in the light of the financial implications of eventual decisions.

1.1.3 Concerning Document 23 §5: RAG noted that Resolution 112 (Marrakesh, 2002) applies.

2 Agenda item 4: Study Group activities

2.1 Agenda item 4.1: Working methods and activities on the ITU-R Study Groups

2.1.1 Concerning Documents 2 (V-Ch, SG 6) and 5 (Italy): RAG noted the documents and, with the exception of §4 of Document 5, advised that they be brought to the attention the Chairmen and Vice-Chairmen of the Study Groups either directly, or via a future meeting of the CVC.

In connection with Document 5 §1, the following information from relevant ITU-R Resolutions was noted:

- *Concerning Questions:* Resolution ITU-R 5-5 states in *considering* e) that “it is incumbent upon the SGs to conduct continual reviews of their assigned Questions and to replace old Questions (eight years old) by new Questions with new work plans;” Interpreting the expression “it is incumbent upon” as “it is the duty of”, the statement is viewed as firm guidance or advice to be followed by the Study Group but not mandatory. Secondly, it

should be noted that the “instruction” is in the *considerings* and not the *resolves* part of the Resolution. It can also be noted that *resolves* 8 (third bullet) of Resolution ITU-R 5-5 instructs deletion of Questions where a study has been completed and for which no contributions are expected, but this provision is well understood and causes no problems of interpretation.

It should also be noted that there is a further, long-standing provision relating to the deletion of Questions contained in the third bullet of section 1.6 of Resolution ITU-R 1-5 where Study Groups are asked to bring to the attention of the RA any Questions for which no contributions have been received for two study cycles. Unless some justification is given, the RA is encouraged to delete such Questions. Again, this is a well understood, long-standing provision that causes no problems of interpretation.

- **Concerning Recommendations:** Resolution ITU-R 1-5, §11.1, states that “any updating of ITU-R Recommendations for which substantial revision has not been made within the last 10-15 years should, as far as possible, be avoided;” This represents clear guidance for the Study Groups but indicates nothing mandatory. (The period of “eight years” doesn’t figure in any Resolution as regards Recommendations.) It can also be noted that this guidance is first referred to in §2.27 of Resolution ITU-R 1-5 where Study Groups are encouraged to update and review maintained Recommendations with proper justification for old ones and, if found no longer necessary, should propose deletion. Then follows a cross-reference to §11.

2.1.2 Concerning Document 12 (Rohde & Schwarz): RAG advised the Director to follow strictly the rules regarding the registration of contributions from the membership and the correct referencing of their source in any subsequent publication.

2.1.3 Concerning Document 14 (Japan): RAG advised the Director to seek a suitable solution to identify editorially updated Recommendations, taking into consideration the practice followed by ITU-T.

2.1.4 Considering Document 15 (Ch SG 4): RAG noted the document concerning revision of Recommendations and the Chairman of SG 5 informed the meeting that a similar review was taking place in Study Group 5.

2.1.5 Concerning Document 18 (USA): Some support was expressed for the proposals on definitions of technology but taking account of Resolution 142 (Antalya, 2006), RAG recognized that decisions on the matter are still awaiting further discussions at PP-10, the results of which could be forwarded to the next RA and/or WRC for further action.

2.1.6 Concerning Document 23 (Korea):

§2 – RAG advised the Director to seek an appropriate solution on electronic file naming.

§3 – RAG agreed that there was no difference in the status of Annexes and Appendices, both being integral parts of a Recommendation. What is important however, is that the Recommendation states clearly (e.g. in the *recommends*) what information should be applied and where it is to be found within the text of the Recommendation concerned.

§4 – RAG recognized that the period between the completion of the draft CPM Report and the WRC could indeed be used for the pursuit of “regular” studies, notwithstanding the need for WPs and SGs to complete (where required) work on Recommendations and Reports in support of CPM texts.

2.1.7 Concerning Document 26 §§3 and 5 (Syria):

§3 – RAG advised the Director to find ways and means to reduce the length of meetings. It further supported the suggestion for each Study Group to meet normally once per year and furthermore invited Study Group management teams to explore the possibility of applying the example of Study Group 7 to their own Study Groups as regards the holding of a one-day meeting immediately before and immediately after a block of WP meetings. In the planning of Study Group meetings, due account should be taken of Decision 5 of the Plenipotentiary that provides options to follow on cost savings.

§5 – RAG referred to §11 of Resolution ITU-R 1-5 and advised that Study Groups adopt a flexible, case-by-case approach to the treatment of old Recommendations (10-15 years old).

2.2 Agenda item 4.2: Study Group preparations for WRC-12

2.2.1 Concerning Documents 1 §3.2 and 17 (USA): RAG endorsed the deadline for the completion of draft CPM texts, as quoted by the Chairman of the CPM, and took note of Document 17 with no advice offered.

2.3 Agenda item 4.3: Liaison and collaboration with ITU-T and ITU-D Sectors and with other organizations

2.3.1 Concerning Document 1 §3.4: RAG expressed its satisfaction for the collaboration between ITU-R Study Groups and those of ITU-D.

2.3.2 Concerning Documents 3 (Ch, SG 6), 6 (Italy), 9 (IARU), 11 (Ch, SG 5), 16 (USA) and 24 (Ch, SG 1): RAG noted the various contributions addressing issues of collaboration, particularly on the topic of PLT, and expressed satisfaction with the action being taken with regard to future liaison on this particular topic. RAG invited the Director to continue his efforts to identify potential areas of overlap between the Sectors with a view to avoiding similar problems in the future.

2.3.3 Considering Documents 13 (Japan) and 26 §4 (Syria): RAG recognized that formal mechanisms for establishing inter-sector groups (e.g. JRGs, JWPs) between ITU-R and ITU-T would be the business of future Assemblies of the two Sectors. In this respect, and as regards ITU-R, the need to revise Resolution ITU-R 6-1 was noted. RAG was informed of recent discussions at TSAG where it was noted that all informal and formal mechanisms regarding collaboration between ITU-R and ITU-T were already in place, be they on the level of the experts, the advisory groups, the Directors of the Bureaux, or the Secretariats of the Bureaux and their respective counsellors. In this respect, RAG confirmed that liaison and collaborative mechanisms already used in the past were still available and advised that they be applied where necessary in the interval leading up to the next RA.

2.3.4 Considering Document 26 §2 (Syria): RAG supported the idea of the Chairmen of the Advisory Groups (and the Vice-Chairmen) to meet on an informal basis, when the need arises and circumstances permit, to discuss items of mutual concern. RAG also supported the idea of meetings of Study Group Chairmen from all three Sectors.

2.3.5 Considering Documents 8 (ITU-T SG 13) and 25 (ITU-T JCA-AHF Convener): RAG took note of these documents, noting that a BR representative had been assigned to the JCA-AHF.

3 Agenda item 6: Strategic, Financial and Operational Plans

3.1 Agenda item 6.2: Draft Operational Plan (Document 1 (§2.6))

In accordance with CV181A, RAG reviewed the draft Operational Plan for the period 2011-2014.

3.1.1 Concerning Document 1 §2.6: Questioning the most appropriate placing of CPM activities in the Operational Plan, RAG advised that it should remain under Objective 3 in view of its close linkage with Study Group activities.

3.2 Agenda item 6.4: Contribution from RAG on the preparation of the draft Strategic and Financial Plans for 2012-2015

3.2.1 Concerning Document 1 (§§2.6 and 6): As regards those parts of the draft Strategic Plan concerning ITU-R, the Chairman of the CWG informed the meeting of the efforts underway focussed on linking the strategic plan with the ITU budget structure.

3.2.2 Concerning Documents 7 (Ch CWG) and 22 (USA): RAG concluded by endorsing the material prepared by the Secretariat contained in Document 7 and taking note of the contents of Document 22 (USA).

Part B – Summary of conclusions of discussions held 19 February 2010

4 Agenda item 4: Study Group activities (continued)

4.1 Agenda item 4.3: Liaison and collaboration with ITU-T and ITU-D Sectors and with other organizations (continued)

4.1.1 Concerning Document 28 (Director, BDT): RAG noted the document with satisfaction, with emphasis placed on the topic of digital broadcasting.

4.2 Agenda item 4.4: Report by the Chairman of the Correspondence Group on EDH

4.2.1 Concerning Document 4 (Coordinator of RAG CG on EDH): After thanking the coordinator of the report, Mr. José Costa, RAG placed importance on the independence of software on operating systems, the need to have WORD versions of documents in addition to pdf, the continuing need for the availability of a limited number of paper copies of documents and a clarification of the time-scale for the future implementation of WORD 2007 for ITU documentation. The Chairman of TSAG reported results of discussions on EDH at a meeting of TSAG held the previous week, particularly in relation to remote electronic meetings.

5 Agenda item 5: WRC issues

5.1 Agenda items 5.1 and 5.2: WRC-07 post-conference activities and WRC-12 preparations

5.1.1 Concerning Document 1 §§4.1 and 4.2: Under these agenda items, RAG confirmed: the desire for early availability of information in relation to Resolution 95 (Rev.WRC-07); the need for administrations to respond to Resolution 647 (WRC-07); continuing work on Resolution 80, both in Study Group 4 and the RRB; and the need for general coordination and preparation for RA-12.

6 Agenda item 7: Seminars and Workshops

6.1 Concerning Document 1 §5: RAG expressed particular satisfaction with WRS-08 and the Spectrum/Orbit Workshop held in May 2009. The Director confirmed the Bureau's continuing commitment to staging regional seminars within the limits of available resources.

7 Agenda item 8: Inter-sector activities

7.1 Concerning Documents 1 §7, 21 (USA): RAG noted with particular satisfaction the activities reported in Document 1 in relation to the WTPF, climate change and emergency communications. In a similar vein, Document 21 (USA) was welcomed as an excellent record of the

ITU response to the Haiti disaster and RAG requested the information to be input to other groups closely concerned with the subject of emergency communications, in particular ITU-D SG 2.

8 Agenda items 9 and 10: Date of next meeting and any other business

The next meeting of RAG was foreseen to be held in the period 27 June – 8 July 2011, the exact dates to be confirmed in due course.

Concerning Document 29 (Syria): The contents of Document 29 (Syria) were noted, in particular in relation to the Administration of Syria's refusal to allow RR references to RNSS in certain Recommendations.

In his capacity as Chairman of the CCV, Mr Kisrawi (Syria) noted that Ms Marie Pardell had retired and announced that Ms Khadija Naaman had been appointed as technical editor in BR.

ANNEX 2

COMMENTS RECEIVED FROM PARTICIPANTS ON THE SUMMARY OF CONCLUSIONS OF THE SEVENTEENTH MEETING OF RAG

From the Administration of Korea:

Doc. 23(§5) on the preparation of PP in the RAG points out that it is essential to have more active participation by members of Sectors in the preparation of PP. Currently, Council is the only place to prepare PP issues, which can be represented by the limited number of countries. How could members of 3 Sectors possibly involve more active participation in the preparatory work of PP? One way would be through 3 Sectors' Advisory Groups.

After the review of the Document, RAG concluded that

1. According to Article 11A of CV (160C), the activities of the RAG do not include preparation of PP. Consequently, any action by the RAG relating to the preparation of PP needs to be considered by the PP;
2. Resolution 112(PP-02) on "Regional preparations for PP" invites Member States active participation in the preparation process of PP.

From the Administration of Egypt:

This is regarding our comments on the summary of conclusions, the part on "Concerning Document 23 (Korea):" on Section 3. We find the first sentence legally incorrect (especially for Recommendations). Best is either revise as attached, or easier the whole sentence can be removed without affecting the core idea in that section.

§3 – RAG noted that while the difference in the status of Annexes and Appendices of a Recommendation might entail legal differences (particularly for Recommendations incorporated by reference in Radio Regulations), in practice this difference is not always significant. It is important that the Recommendation states clearly (e.g. in the *recommends*) what information should be applied and where it is to be found within the text of the Recommendation concerned.

From the Administration of Canada:

On page 3 of the Summary of Conclusions on specific points raised during the 17th meeting of RAG, regarding the section concerning Document 26 and 5, it is noted that, in the planning of Study Group meetings, due account should be taken of Decision 5 of the Plenipotentiary that provides options to follow on cost savings.

Canada would like to offer the following clarification of the reference to Decision 5 to avoid any misunderstanding.

Decision 5 (Rev. Antalya, 2006), *Income and expenditure for the Union for the period 2008-2011*, in its *decides 5*, notes "that the Council shall have the task of effecting every possible economy, in particular taking into account the options for reducing expenditure contained in Annex 2 to this decision,". The intent of this provision, and the "options" outlined in Annex 2, are intended to identify possible areas for reducing expenditures, and should not to be construed as

being mandatory. Moreover, the list of possible options is not exhaustive; the Plenipotentiary Conference may decide to amend this list, and add other options which may be considered feasible in order to balance income and expenditure.

It is proposed, therefore, that the statement in the Summary of Conclusions be amended to state: that, in the planning of Study Group meetings, due account should be taken of Decision 5 of the Plenipotentiary that provides options to consider on cost savings.

From the Sector Member Rohde & Schwarz:

"§ 2.1.2 Concerning Document 12 (Rohde & Schwarz): RAG advised the Director to follow strictly the rules regarding the registration of contributions from the membership and the correct referencing of their source in any subsequent publication."

Considering that RAG endorsed the contents of Document 12 and to further clarify § 2.1.2, please attach to the Document of the reference this comment supported by Document 12:

"RAG advised the Director, BR to apply strictly the rules on the right to participate in ITU-R Study Group activities, including the preparation of ITU-R handbooks, which should be restricted to delegates and experts representing only ITU Member States, and companies and organizations, which are Sector Members of ITU-R or Associates. This would avoid cases when a company which is not Sector Member or Associate be given recognition as a contributor to the text of a given handbook, when their participation was in fact only covered by the corresponding Member State."

From the Chairman of ITU-R Study Group 5:

Concerning Documents 3 (Ch, SG 6), 6 (Italy), 9 (IARU), 11 (Ch, SG 5), 16 (USA) and 24 (Ch, SG 1): RAG noted the various contributions addressing issues of collaboration, particularly on the topic of PLT, and expressed satisfaction with the actions being taken with regard to future liaison on these issues including PLT. RAG invited the Director to continue his efforts to identify potential areas of overlap between the Sectors with a view to avoiding similar problems in the future.
