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| C:\Users\ponder\AppData\Local\Microsoft\Windows\Temporary Internet Files\Content.Word\BDT-25th_anniversary_2017-Logo_411959-3_transparent.png | **World Telecommunication Development Conference 2017 (WTDC-17)**  **Buenos Aires, Argentina, 9-20 October 2017** | C:\Users\ponder\AppData\Local\Microsoft\Windows\Temporary Internet Files\Content.Word\BDT-25th_anniversary_2017-Logo_411959-1_transparent.png |
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| PLENARY MEETING | | **Document WTDC-17/27-E** |
|  | | **21 August 2017** |
|  | | **Original: English** |
| ATDI | | |
| Proposals for the work of the conference EMF: Revisions of ITU-D Resolution 62 and Question 7/2 | | |
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| **Priority area:** - Resolutions and recommendations  - Study Group Questions  **Summary:**  ATDI provides two proposals, based on ATDI contribution to the meeting of ITU-D Study Group 2 (Geneva, 3-7 April 2017) [Document 2/410](http://www.itu.int/md/D14-SG02-C-0410/) (dated 6 February 2017), the final report for Question 7/2 [Document 2/487](https://www.itu.int/dms_ties/itu-d/md/14/sg02/c/D14-SG02-C-0487!!MSW-E.docx) of 6 April 2017, ATDI contribution to the Regional Preparatory Meeting for WTDC-17 for Europe (Vilnius, 27-28 April 2017) Document [RPM-EUR17/14](https://www.itu.int/md/meetingdoc.asp?lang=en&parent=D14-RPMEUR-C-0014) (dated 22 February 2017), and and some ideas from Document [WTDC-17/25](https://www.itu.int/md/meetingdoc.asp?lang=en&parent=D14-WTDC17-C-0025) (dated 7 Aug. 2017) by the Central African Republic. ATDI proposes to revise ITU-D Resolution 62 and Question 7/2. The Revisions reflect augmented cellular penetration and traffic growth, increased usage of data services, network coverage and capacity extension. Changes in international activities are referred and dates are updated. The revision may guide future activities on Question 7/2.  **Expected results:**  Amendment and adoption of the proposed revisions of [Resolution 62](https://www.itu.int/en/ITU-D/Conferences/WTDC/Documents/D-TDC-WTDC-2014-PDF-E.pdf) and [Question 7/2](https://www.itu.int/net4/ITU-D/CDS/sg/rgqlist.asp?lg=1&sp=2014&rgq=D14-SG02-RGQ07.2&stg=2).  **References:**  ITU-D [Resolution 62](https://www.itu.int/en/ITU-D/Conferences/WTDC/Documents/D-TDC-WTDC-2014-PDF-E.pdf), [Question 7/2](https://www.itu.int/net4/ITU-D/CDS/sg/rgqlist.asp?lg=1&sp=2014&rgq=D14-SG02-RGQ07.2&stg=2), ITU-T [Resolution 72](https://www.itu.int/en/ITU-T/wtsa12/Documents/resolutions/Resolution%2072.pdf) (Rev. Dubai, 2012; Measurement concerns related to human exposure to electromagnetic fields), ITU-T [Question 3/5](http://www.itu.int/en/ITU-T/studygroups/2017-2020/05/Pages/q3.aspx) (Human exposure to EMFs from ICTs) and ITU-R [Question 1/239](http://www.itu.int/pub/R-QUE-SG01/publications.aspx?lang=en&parent=R-QUE-SG01.239) (Electromagnetic field measurements to assess human exposure). | | |

**MOD** ATDI/27/1

RESOLUTION 62 (Rev. Buenos aires, 2017)

Assessment and Measurement concerns related to human exposure   
to electromagnetic fields

The World Telecommunication Development Conference (Buenos Aires, 2017),

recalling

*a)* Resolution 72 (Rev. Hammamet, 2016) of the World Telecommunication Standardization Assembly, on measurement and assessment concerns related to human exposure to electromagnetic fields (EMF), which calls for close cooperation among the Directors of the three Bureaux to implement the resolution in view of its importance to developing countries[[1]](#footnote-1)1;

*b)* Resolution 176 (Busan, 2014) of the Plenipotentiary Conference, on human exposure to and measurement of electromagnetic fields,

considering

*a)* that there is a pressing need for information on the potential effects of human exposure to EMF in order to protect humans from such effects;

*b)* that there are a number of eminent international bodies involved in establishing measurement methodologies for assessing human exposure to EMF, and these already cooperate with many telecommunication standards bodies, including the ITU Telecommunication Standardization Sector (ITU‑T),

recognizing

*a)* that some publications and information about EMF effects on health create doubt among the population, in particular in developing countries, causing these countries to address questions to ITU‑T and to the ITU Telecommunication Development Sector (ITU‑D);

*b)* that without adequate information or appropriate regulation, people, particularly in developing countries, may have concerns about the effect of EMF on their health, and that inadequate, or in some cases incorrect, information may result in increasing opposition to the deployment of radio installations, in their vicinity;

*c)* that the effect on humans of EMF from handheld devices has not received enough public information, and use of a mobile phone may expose the user to a stronger EMF than a base station;

*d)* that the cost of the equipment used for assessing human exposure from handheld devices to EMF is very high and difficult for many developing countries to afford;

*e)* that implementing measurements is essential for many regulatory authorities in developing countries, in order to monitor the limits for human exposure to radio-frequency energy, and that they are called upon to ensure those limits are met in order to license different services;

*f)* the work of ITU‑T Study Group 5 on this issue, including the updating of practical and affordable guidelines to help developing countries deal with this issue effectively;

*g)* the work of ITU-R Study Group 1 Question [1/239](http://www.itu.int/pub/R-QUE-SG01.239) on the measurements techniques to assess the human exposure from wireless installations and presenting the measurement results,

resolves to instruct the Director of the Telecommunication Development Bureau

in response to the needs of the developing countries and consistent with the substance of Resolution 72 (Rev. Hammamet, 2016), and in close cooperation with the Director of the Radiocommunication Bureau and Director of the Telecommunication Standardization Bureau:

1 to give the necessary priority to this subject and, within the available resources, allocate the necessary funds for expediting execution of this resolution;

2 to conduct international and regional seminars and workshops to identify the needs of developing countries and to build human capacity in regard to EMF;

3 to ensure that Output 2.2 determines the requirements of developing countries and their regulatory authorities (at regional level) in relation to this resolution, contributes to studies on this subject, takes an active part in the work of the relevant ITU Radiocommunication Sector (ITU‑R) and ITU‑T study groups, and submits written contributions on the results of its work in this regard, plus any proposals it deems necessary, to ITU‑D Study Group 2,

instructs Study Group 2

within the framework of its Questions, including Question 7/2, to cooperate with ITU‑T Study Group 5 and ITU‑R Study Groups 1, 4, 5 and 6, in order to achieve the following goals:

i) to collaborate, with ITU‑T Study Group 5 in particular implementating guidelines, on the subject of human exposure to EMF, as a matter of high priority;

ii) prepare an annual report on the progress of work in this area in respect of their Questions,

invites

1 Memebership to conduct a periodic review concerning the performance of the operators and mobile equipment manufacturers in this field to make sure that they are following the national specifications or ITU Recommendations, in order to ensure the safe use of EMF.

2 International financial institutions and donor agencies to acquire equipment used for assessing human exposure to EMF in the developing countries.

STUDY GROUP 2

**MOD** ATDI/27/2

QUESTION 7/2 (REVISED)

Strategies and policies concerning   
human exposure to electromagnetic fields

# 1 Statement of the situation or problem

The deployment of different sources of electromagnetic fields to cater for the telecommunication and ICT needs of urban and rural communities has developed very rapidly over the past years. This has been due to strong competition, ongoing cellular penetration and traffic growth, increased usage of data services, quality-of-service requirements, network coverage and capacity extension and the introduction of new technologies.

It has prompted concern on the possible effects of prolonged exposure to emissions on people's health.

This concern on the part of populations is growing, aggravated by the feeling that they are not being kept informed in regard to the process for deploying these installations in their vicinity; hence many complaints received by operators and government bodies responsible for radiocommunications/ICTs.

Thus, since the continued development of radiocommunications requires trust on the part of populations, the work carried out in ITU‑R Study Groups specifically new [Question 1/239](http://www.itu.int/pub/R-QUE-SG01.239) and in ITU‑T Study Group 5 under Resolution 72 of the World Telecommunication Standardization Assembly, on measurement and assessment concerns related to human exposure to electromagnetic fields, should be complemented by studies on the different regulatory and communication mechanisms developed by countries to increase the knowledge and attention of and information to populations and facilitate the deployment and operation of radiocommunication systems.

# 2 Question or issue for study

The following subjects should be studied:

a) Compilation and analysis of the regulatory policies concerning human exposure to electromagnetic fields that are being considered or implemented for authorizing the installation of radiocommunication sites.

b) Description of the strategies or methods for raising the knowledge of populations and increasing information to populations regarding the effects of electromagnetic fields due to radiocommunication systems.

c) Proposed guidelines and best practices on this matter.

d) What are the international (mainly in WHO, ICNIRP and IEEE) activities, including updated limits of exposure levels.

# 3 Expected outcome

a) A new report to the membership presenting guidelines to assist Member States in resolving similar problems faced by regulatory bodies.

b) The report will provide regulatory authorities with guidelines on methods for raising the knowledge of populations along with best practices based on countries' experience in the matter.

# 4 Timing

A provisional report is to be presented to the study group in 2019. It is proposed that the study be completed in 2021, at which date a final report containing guidelines will be submitted.

# 5 Proposers/sponsors

ITU Membership.

# 6 Sources of input

– Member States, Sector Members and Academia

– Regional organizations

– ITU Sectors

– World Health Organization (WHO)

– International Commission on Non-Ionizing Radiation Protection (ICNIRP)

– Institute of Electrical and Electronics Engineers (IEEE)

– BDT focal points.

# 7 Target audience

a) Target audience – Who specifically will use the input?

| Target audience | Developed countries | Developing countries[[2]](#footnote-2)1 |
| --- | --- | --- |
| Telecom/ICT decision-makers, local authorities | Yes | Yes |
| Telecom/ICT regulators | Yes | Yes |
| Service providers/operators | Yes | Yes |
| Constructors/equipment provider | Yes | Yes |

b) Proposed methods for implementation of the results

The results of the Question are to be distributed through ITU‑D reports, or as agreed during the study period in order to address the Question for study.

# 8 Proposed methods of handling the Question or issue

Close coordination is essential with ITU‑D programmes, as well as with other relevant ITU‑D study Questions and ITU‑R study groups dealing with ICT for climate change, and ITU‑T Study Group 5.

a) How?

1) Within a study group:

– Question (over a multi-year study period) ☑

2) Within regular BDT activity:

– Programmes ☑

– Projects ☑

– Expert consultants ☑

3) In other ways – describe (e.g. regional, within other   
organizations, jointly with other organizations, etc.) □

b) Why?

To ensure that the work and output of this study Question is not duplicated and that there is better collaboration among BDT, the other ITU Sectors, Sector Members and other United Nations agencies.

# 9 Coordination and collaboration

The ITU‑D study group dealing with this Question will need to coordinate with:

– Relevant ITU‑D Question(s)

– Relevant BDT programme(s)

– Regional offices

– Relevant ITU‑R and ITU‑T study groups

– Relevant international, regional and scientific organizations with mandates relevant to this Question.

# 10 BDT programme link

Objective 5, Output 5.1

# 11 Other relevant information

To be defined in the work plan.

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1. 1 These include the least developed countries, small island developing states, landlocked developing countries and countries with economies in transition. [↑](#footnote-ref-1)
2. 1 These include the least developed countries, small island developing states, landlocked developing countries and countries with economies in transition. [↑](#footnote-ref-2)