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|  | **Document RPM-CIS21/21-E** |
|  | **6 April 2021** |
|  | **Original: English and Russian** |
| Regional Commonwealth in the field of Communications (RCC) |
| Draft revision of Resolution 34 (Rev. Buenos Aires, 2017) “The role of telecommunications/information and communication technology in disaster preparedness, early warning, rescue, mitigation, relief and response” |
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| **Agenda item:** Item 7.2**Summary:**This contribution contains draft revisions of the WTDC-17 Resolution 34, considering the PP-18 Resolution 136 (rev. Dubai, 2018) for updating and simplification of its text.**Expected results:**This document, contained a draft RCC Common proposal, has been submitted to the RPM-CIS (April 2021) for information.**Reference:**Resolution 136 (rev. Dubai, 2018) of the Plenipotentiary Conference |

Annex

RESOLUTION 34 (Rev. Addis Ababa, 2021)

**The role of telecommunications/information and communication technology in disaster preparedness, early warning, rescue, mitigation, relief and response**

The World Telecommunication Development Conference (Addis Ababa, 2021),

a)

b) that the number of natural and man-made disasters, as well as the tragic consequences associated with them, are steadily increasing;

c) that telecommunications/ICT plays a crucial role in disaster preparedness, early warning, rescue, mitigation, relief and response, and also be a decision tool for rescue services and involved entities as well as for communication with citizens and among them;

d) suchss by thate- including in local languages and in benefit of indigenous peoples

 *recalling*

a) Resolution 136 (Rev. Dubai, 2018) of the Plenipotentiary Conference, on the use of telecommunications/ICTs for humanitarian assistance, and for monitoring and management in emergency and disaster situations, and including diseases, for early warning, prevention, mitigation and relief;

bc) Resolution 646 (Rev.WRC-19) of the World Radiocommunication Conference (WRC), on public protection and disaster relief;

d) Resolution 647 (Rev.WRC-19) of WRC, on radiocommunication aspects, including spectrum management guidelines, for early warning, disaster prediction, detection, mitigation and relief operations relating to emergencies and disasters;

e of the ITU Radiocommunication Sector()-3 Sharm El Sheikh19about ITU-Rf) Article 5 of the International Telecommunication Regulations, on safety of life and priority of telecommunications;

g provisions of the ITU Telecommunication Standardization Sector (ITU-T), in particular ITU-T Recommendation E.161.1 Guidelines to select Emergency Number for public telecommunications networks;

h) emergency telecommunication/ICT coordination mechanisms established by the United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA),

*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) and that this convention came into force in January 2005;

b

c) outcomes and activities of the ITU Global Forum on Emergency Telecommunications;d) Recommendations and other ITU-R and ITU-T study group activities related to preparedness, early warning, rescue, mitigation, relief and response and disaster relief operations, in particular the provision of technical information on satellite and terrestrial radiocommunication systems and wired networks and their role in disaster management;

e) the activities of the ITU Telecommunication Development Sector (ITU-D) in enhancing the role of telecommunications/ICT in disaster preparedness, early warning, rescue, mitigation, relief and response, and the outcome of Question 5/2 ITU-D Study Group 2.

*considering further*

*considering also*

a) the importance of utilizing both existing and new technologies and solutions (satellite and terrestrial) to satisfy a range of interoperability requirements and furthering the goals of public protection and disaster relief;

b) the terrible disasters from which many countries suffer, and the disproportionate impact of disasters and of climate change on developing countries[[1]](#footnote-1);

c) the particular vulnerability of least developed countries (LDCs), landlocked developing countries (LLDCs) and small island developing states (SIDS) to the impact that disasters can have on their economies and infrastructures and lack the capacity to respond to disasters;

d) the need to take into account the requirements of persons with disabilities and persons with specific needs with respect to disaster warning, response planning and recovery efforts;

e dependence of/ICT

f an opportunity to significantly facilitate telecommunications/

g the potential of to

i) the need for international and regional cooperation between states, as well as between organizations on preparedness, early warning, rescue, mitigation, relief and response, including through the establishment of a network of experts in disaster management;

j) the role of the private sector, governments and international and nongovernmental organizations in providing telecommunication/ICT equipment and services, expertise and capacity-building assistance to support disaster-relief and recovery activities, particularly through the ITU Framework for International Cooperation in Emergencies (IFCE);

*noting*

a) the continued pursuit by ITU and other relevant organizations of joint activities being undertaken at the international, regional and national levels to establish internationally agreed means to operate systems for public protection and disaster relief on a harmonized and coordinated basis, and the successful role of BDT through its programme activities in this area;

b) the successful role of BDT, in partnership with the ITU membership, with respect to rapid intervention in enabling and facilitating telecommunications/ICTs for countries which have suffered disasters;

cthe capacity of and area to support affected countries

*resolves to instruct the Director of the Telecommunication Development Bureau*

1 to continue to ensure that priority consideration is given to emergency communications as an element of telecommunication/ICT development, including continued close coordination and collaboration with ITU-R and ITU-T and relevant international organizations, and that coordination with BR must take into consideration the outcomes of studies, especially those mentioned in Resolutions 646 (Rev. WRC-19) and 647 (Rev. WRC-19), which provide for harmonized models for PPDR networks;

2 to organize a forum on emergency communications, periodically, and within budgetary resources, to provide administrations with best practices in terms of mechanisms, procedures and coordination for the use of telecommunications/ICTs in emergency situations;

3 to establish contact points at the level of BDT and the ITU regional offices, enabling affected Member States to request capacity building and direct assistance in terms of emergency communications, whereby the contact numbers of these points are to be circulated to ITU members and contact points are to be responsible for coordinating ITU assistance to disaster-struck countries and with relevant UN and international organizations that provide emergency communications;

4 to facilitate and encourage the use by ITU members of telecommunications/ICT that are appropriate and commonly available for disaster response and mitigation, including those provided by amateur radio services, satellite and terrestrial network services/facilities;

5 to promote, in close collaboration with ITU-R and ITU-T, the implementation of early-warning systems, and emergency information broadcasting, for example audio and TV broadcasting, mobile messages, etc., taking into account persons with disabilities and persons with specific needs;

6 to support administrations in their work towards the implementation of this resolution as well as the ratification and implementation of the Tampere Convention;

7 to report to the next World Telecommunication Development Conference on the status of ratification and implementation of the Tampere Convention;

8 to support administrations and regulators in the areas identified in this resolution by taking appropriate measures during the implementation of the ITU-D action plan;

9 to continue to support administrations in preparing their national disaster response and relief plans, including consideration of the necessary enabling national regulatory and policy environments to support the development and effective use of telecommunications/ICT for disaster mitigation, relief and response;

10 to strengthen the role of the ITU regional offices, in coordination with the above-mentioned points of contact, in assisting Member States and Sector Members in developing emergency preparedness plans and early-warning systems, in organizing training workshops on emergency relief and response, in providing equipment training, in fostering collaboration with all parties involved and in helping deploy communication equipment during emergencies;

11 as part of the ITU framework for cooperation in emergencies, to continue providing assistance to administrations, in coordination with the abovementioned points of contact, within available resources, and in collaboration with the ITU membership and other partners, through the temporary supply of emergency communications/ICT equipment and services, especially during the initial phases of disasters;

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14 to expedite the study of aspects of telecommunications/ICTs related to flexibility and continuity in the event of disasters, as part of national disaster plans, including promoting the use of broadband networks for emergency communications through the work of the ITU-D study groups, in collaboration with expert organizations, taking account of the activities of the other ITU Sectors and relevant UN and other international organizations;

15 in implementing outcome 2.3 under Objective 2 for 2020-2023, to work collaboratively with the ITU-D study Questions, as well as with the other two Sectors, ITU regional offices, the ITU membership and other relevant expert organizations, in implementing this resolution, and to report regularly on programme activities and relevant regional initiatives to the study groups;

16 to include in the ITU Academy's training plans programmes on the use of telecommunications/ICTs for disaster management and mitigation;

17 to promote implementing decisions of the ITU Global Forum on Emergency Telecommunications, within existing budgetary resources,

*requests the Secretary-General*

to continue 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 of, emergency communications and early-warning systems, and to report on outcomes of related international conferences, relief activities and meetings so that the Plenipotentiary Conference (Bucharest, 2022) may take any action that it deems necessary,

*invites Member States*

1 to continue to deploy all necessary efforts to integrate disaster risk reduction disaster mitigation, disaster relief and resilience into telecommunication/ICT development plans, as well as to incorporate ICTs into national regulations, national or regional disaster management plans and frameworks, so that they provide the necessary telecommunication/ICT services consideringthe specific needs of persons with disabilities, children, older persons, displaced persons and the illiterate, and the importance of collaborating with all stakeholders in all disaster phases;

2to take the necessary measures to yly

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8telecommunications/

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*Invites also*

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2/ICT

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4 ITU-D to take account of the particular telecommunication requirements of LDCs, LLDCs, SIDS and low-lying coastal countries in terms of disaster preparedness, rescue, relief and recovery;

5 within its studies on the role of telecommunications/ICTs in disaster preparedness, early warning, rescue, mitigation, relief and response

6 s/ICT

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