



*Radiocommunication Bureau*  
(Direct Fax N°. +41 22 730 57 85)

Administrative Circular  
CA/151

25 July 2005

## **To Administrations of Member States of the ITU and Radiocommunication Sector Members<sup>1</sup>**

**Subject:** Report of the first meeting of the Intersessional Planning Group (IPG), Geneva, 4-8 July 2005, in respect of the second session of the Regional Radiocommunication Conference for the planning of 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)

**Reference:** Administrative Circular CA/147 of 4 February 2005

1 Please find attached the report of the first meeting of the Intersessional Planning Group (IPG), which was held in Geneva, from 4 to 8 July 2005.

2 In communicating this report, the Bureau wishes to emphasize the following points:

2.1 The results of the first planning exercise, which were considered by the IPG, have been refined by the Planning Exercise team (PXT) and dispatched to the Member States from the planning area on 15 July 2005 (see BR circular letter CR/240);

2.2 The IPG instructed the PXT to conduct additional exercises and to present them to the meeting of the Working Party of the IPG, which will be held in Geneva on 28 and 29 September 2005. The invitation for this meeting is included in Administrative Circular CA/150;

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<sup>1</sup> *This Administrative Circular is primarily addressed to the ITU Member States and ITU-R Sector Members of Region 1 (except Mongolia) and to the Islamic Republic of Iran. It is for information only for other ITU Member States and for the ITU-R Sector Members outside the planning area of RRC.*

2.3 The IPG invited the administrations of the Member States in the planning area to abstain voluntarily from initiating the plan modification procedures under the Regional Agreements ST61 and GE89, in the frequency bands 174–230 MHz and 470–862 MHz, after 31 October 2005, so as to facilitate the consideration of this issue by the RRC-06. In addition, the IPG invited the administrations of the Member States in the planning area to abstain voluntarily, from the notification of frequency assignments of primary services other than broadcasting in the frequency bands 174–230 MHz and 470–862 MHz after 31 October 2005, so as to facilitate the consideration of this issue by the RRC-06.

3. You may wish to note that the second meeting of the IPG meeting will be held in Geneva from 20 to 24 February 2006. The invitation for this meeting will be sent in due time.

Valery Timofeev  
Director, Radiocommunication Bureau

**Attachments: 2**

Attachment 1: Report of the first meeting of the Intersessional Planning Group (IPG)  
(partial version, without the Annexes)

Attachment 2: (CD ROM): Complete Report of the first meeting of the Intersessional Planning Group (IPG), with the Annexes

Distribution:

- Administrations of Member States of the ITU
- Radiocommunication Sector Members
- Chairmen and Vice-Chairmen of Radiocommunication Study Groups and the 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

## ATTACHMENT 1

### REPORT OF THE FIRST MEETING OF THE INTERSESSIONAL PLANNING GROUP (IPG) (GENEVA, 4-8 JULY 2005)

#### **Introduction**

The Intersessional Planning Group held its first meeting at ITU headquarters in Geneva, from 4 to 8 July 2005, under the chairmanship of Mr Kavouss Arasteh (IRN). The meeting was attended by 268 delegates representing 93 Member States in the planning area, 1 Member State outside the planning area, 1 observer from the planning area under Resolution 99 (PP-98), 3 regional telecommunication organizations, 3 recognized operating agencies, and 2 regional and other international organizations.

The deliberations and conclusions reached with respect to the considered agenda items are summarized below.

#### **1 Opening remarks**

The Chairman opened the meeting and noted that the group would conduct its work under the terms of reference and working methods specified in Resolution COM5/1 of RRC-04.

The Chairman thanked the Director, BR, Mr Valery Timofeev, and Deputy Director, Mr Fabio Leite, Mr Trajco Gavrilov, Head Terrestrial Services Department, the PXT and its Team Leader, Mr Pham Hai, and the Bureau's staff for their support in preparing for and performing the intersessional activities. The Chairman specifically thanked the EBU, its Director of the Technical Department, Mr Philip Laven and, in particular Mr Ken Hunt and Dr Terry O'Leary for providing the planning software, indicating his highest appreciation for the considerable efforts of the EBU, noting that the software was developed during the 2004 summer period, which resulted in no vacation for these experts, who developed the software. The experts received a round of applause from delegates.

He also expressed his appreciation, on behalf of the IPG, to the involved ITU-R study groups and working parties for their valuable contributions to the intersessional activities.

The Deputy Secretary-General, Mr Roberto Blois, briefly addressed the meeting and wished the delegates a fruitful meeting.

The Chairman also thanked the Director, TSB, Mr Houlin Zhao, for its ongoing support.

The Director of BR welcomed the delegates to the first meeting of the IPG and indicated that the Bureau had been working hard over the past 13 months in close relationship with administrations to compile the results of the first planning exercise. He acknowledged the invaluable contribution of the EBU in providing the planning software in a timely manner. The results, he added, are the product of a close partnership with study groups of ITU-R and their working parties, the Planning Exercise Team, the Steering Group of the IPG, the Working Party (and its Sub-WG) of the RPG and others.

The Director emphasized nevertheless that the results of the first planning exercise were part of a learning process that will help improve the overall planning process for the production of the draft plan and the second session.

The Director of the Bureau also acknowledged the work behind the administrative declarations which were not envisaged initially but which have indeed increased the value of the results of the first planning exercise.

He concluded by stressing that the results were somehow below the expectations as a large number of requirements could not be assigned any channel. He urged administrations to reconsider some of their requirements in order to improve the overall output.

## **2 Approval of the agenda**

The meeting approved the draft agenda as proposed in Document IPG-1/ADM/1 as amended.

## **3 Review of the status of the intersessional activities (report from the Director, BR)**

BR introduced parts 2 and 3 of Document IPG-1/6 and indicated that other parts of the document are covered in detail in Documents IPG-1/13-18 which will be considered by the working groups.

Part 2 includes a summary of the activities carried out so far. The Bureau informed that the invitations for the second session of the conference (RRC-06) had been dispatched. Part 3 refers, *inter alia*, to the issue of contact points. Administrations were invited to review the list of contact points, to indicate the correct contact details and also to designate missing contact points in order to facilitate intersessional activities.

Additionally, BR informed that several seminars and regional information meetings had been organized so far to inform administrations on the software, planning exercise activities and the preparatory work for the second session.

Syria provided corrections on some dates contained in section 3.4.7, e.g. the date for the BR information meeting to be held in Damascus should read 16-18 August 2005.

BR also informed the meeting that the second preparatory meeting and workshop for the African countries was due in September 2005. No administrations have yet come forward to host the meeting.

The Chairman urged administrations to consider the issue of contact points and to find a host administration for the second BR information meeting in Africa. He stressed that the meeting should take place in good time before 31 October 2005, the deadline by which data submission for the draft plan should be sent to BR. He emphasized that this opportunity should be used to coordinate requirements in Africa.

BR then introduced Document IPG-1/31 and Addendum 1.

- With regard to section 5.3 of that document, it was emphasized that the required calculation time should be reduced from 19 to 2-3 days.
- The Bureau indicated that Annex 2 of the document (Addendum 1) had been submitted to IPG for further guidance.

Syria requested that PXT make an assessment of the results while noting the difficulties due to the tight timeline. Furthermore, PXT was asked to present a clear and thorough report to IPG-2 in line with *resolves* 1a) of Resolution COM5/1 of RRC-04. The Administration of Iran supported this proposal.

The Chairman suggested to replace the term “issue register” with “action items” and use the latter term in future documentation.

#### **4 Consideration of the IPG Steering Group activities (report from the Chairman, IPG)**

The Chairman of IPG introduced Document IPG-1/7(Rev.1) and informed that the IPG Steering Group (STG) had met three times (10-12 November 2004, 10-11 February 2005 and 30 June - 1 July 2005) to review the activities of PXT and to provide provisional advice to PXT.

IPG endorsed the views of IPG-STG that all input and output documents of PXT and IPG-STG need to be posted on the ITU website as soon as they become available, preferably within 24 hours from their date of receipt by BR. In the event that the author of an input document to PXT requests that a given input not be posted on the website, this request needs to be satisfied.

Members of PXT are urged to attend all meetings of PXT so that the views of regional groups are duly and appropriately reflected in the PXT results. Consequently, the national administrations to which these regional representative experts are associated are requested to fully support their activities in PXT, in particular their continued participation and attendance at future PXT meetings.

IPG instructed IPG-STG to represent IPG between the IPG-1 and IPG-2 meetings in order that the objectives and purposes of Resolution COM5/1 of RRC-04 are fully implemented. The IPG Chairman was also requested to attend the PXT meetings, when necessary.

Syria referred to Resolution COM5/1 of RRC-04, Annex 3, and suggested that the IPG Steering Group convene a meeting during the PXT meeting, or alternatively, hold a joint IPG Steering Group and PXT meeting.

The Chairman indicated that, should such course of action be deemed necessary, this option would be considered.

#### **5 Consideration of contributions to IPG (other than those included in agenda items 7 and 8)**

The Administration of Iran introduced Document IPG-1/8 and appreciated the work done by the PXT and BR with respect to paragraphs 5.3.1 and 5.3.2 of Document IPG-1/6. The representative of the Bureau explained the reasons why the existing and planned analogue broadcasting assignments as well as assignments of other primary services of RCC countries had been included in the analysis.

Iran made the following comments on the Bureau's Document IPG-1/6:

Paragraph 5.3.1 – The issue of the 456 assignments referred to in CR/217, i.e. those having no equivalent in the ST61/GE89 Plans, will be addressed in Working Group 1.

Regarding the issue of broadcasting assignments in the RCC List, the IPG confirmed that all activities relating to the Planning Exercise and the production of a draft Plan need to be in accordance with decisions/conclusions of RRC-04 as contained in section 1.7 of the Report. IPG also concluded that actions taken by the Bureau, in taking into account all RCC existing and planned analogue assignments irrespective of the status of coordination, were merely aimed at providing an indication of the compatibility analysis of these assignments with respect to the broadcasting assignments/allotments and other primary services of other administrations. This was done with a view to facilitating their tasks in the subsequent bilateral and multilateral coordination activities.

In the light of the above, IPG concluded that there is no need to repeat the exercise to exclude those RCC existing and planned broadcasting assignments from the results of the analysis at this stage, since the results of the First Planning Exercise are merely an indication of the situation in the planning area. However, administrations concerned need to bear in mind the requirements of

coordination, as referred to in sections 1.7.1 and 1.7.2 of the Report of the RRC-04 to the second session, when further coordinating these assignments/allotments. IPG noted that for the production of the draft Plan, the Bureau will certainly and undoubtedly act in accordance with the decision of RRC-04, in application of sections 1.7.1 and 1.7.2 of the Report.

The Chairman's conclusions were agreed by the meeting.

Syria presented Document IPG-1/10(Rev.1).

After a detailed presentation of the document, the Chairman summarized his understanding as follows:

Sections 1-5 are discussed at working group level and thus were not to be further discussed in Plenary. The Chairman was pleased to note that the Arab Group was in a position to support option 1 of the Working Party of RPG as contained in section 2.2.3 of Annex 2 to Document IPG-1/3.

Section 6.1 – The use of the word “exercise” is a matter of semantics. The word “exercise” has been used in its collective sense.

No action is required under section 6.2 as Palestine is part of the planning area. He underlined that the rights of everyone are fully respected. Palestine has submitted their requirements which have been treated on the same basis as all the other requirements and are reflected in the output.

Israel informed the meeting that it has approached its neighbours, including Palestine, in the context of “engineering coordination”. They hope to complete coordination on a one-to-one basis.

Syria insisted that there are discrepancies in the interpretation of Resolution COM5/1 of the RRC-04 by the Bureau and made the following statement:

“The Arab States are not happy with the interpretation from the Bureau and the PXT in relation to the existing Palestine analogue broadcasting assignments which were not taken into consideration, contrary to the decisions of RRC-04 on this matter, by interpreting “took note” in this Decision as “no obligation to take into consideration these assignments”. This is in contradiction with the said RRC-04 Decision”.

The Arab Group had requested that the Palestinian analogue network be taken into account by means of an official document. Syria reiterated that it is not within the Bureau's remit to interpret Resolutions.

In reply to these statements, the Bureau indicated that the summary presentation included in Document IPG-1/6 is consistent with the standard practice. When a detailed presentation is used, as it is the case in Document IPG-1/19, a specific reference to the Palestinian Authority – including the symbol PSE – is customary. With respect to the analogue TV assignments of Palestine, they are not part of the reference situation because they are not listed under any category in section 1.7.1 of the Report of the first session.

The Chairman closed the discussion and encouraged all administrations to coordinate their assignments before being submitted to the Bureau.

With regard to section 6.4, Syria added that no reply to a circular letter does not constitute an agreement by administrations as they may choose to revert to the issue at a later stage.

The Bureau pointed that some circular letters include deadlines specified by conferences.

The Chairman concluded that if there is a deadline associated with a circular letter then the reply will need to be received by the deadline, otherwise non-reply should not be interpreted as agreement and administrations may wish to come back to any issue of the circular letter at a later date if they so wish.

Nigeria suggested that the Bureau should remind administrations at regular intervals before the expiry of the deadlines.

The Chairman said that the practicability of this request would need to be considered. However, for the deadline of 31 October 2005, a general reminder should be sent to all administrations.

Section 6.5 – IPG endorsed the comments made by Syria.

Section 6.6 – The issue is within the RRC remit.

Section 7 – No comments from the IPG.

Section 8 – It was noted.

Document IPG-1/28 was already presented by Syria to ad hoc Group 1 and hence does not need to be presented in Plenary.

Document IPG-1/30 was presented by the Democratic Republic of Congo indicating the broadcasting needs of that country as referred to in Tables 3.1 and 3.2 of the document.

The Chairman encouraged delegates to seize the opportunity while in Geneva to engage in coordination discussions with neighbouring countries.

The Bureau informed that the requirements from the Democratic Republic of Congo for the first planning exercise have been processed. The outcome is reflected in Document IPG-1/32(Rev.1) and includes a relatively high number of satisfied requirements.

The Kingdom of Lesotho indicated that Document IPG-1/33 had been withdrawn.

## **6 Working arrangements**

The following working arrangements were proposed for consideration by IPG-1:

- Establishment of four working groups
- Establishment of a steering group
- Establishment of two ad hoc groups
- Nomination of an editor for the report of this meeting.

The United Kingdom delegation informed that they were pleased to nominate Ms E. Val as an editor.

The proposals made by the Chairman were endorsed by the meeting.

## **7 Establishment of the IPG working groups and attribution of documents to the working groups**

IPG followed the proposal made by the Chairman and established the following groups:

|             |  |                                     |
|-------------|--|-------------------------------------|
| IPG-1-WG 1: | Working assumptions, missing criteria and results of ITU-R studies | Chairman:<br>Mr Jean-Jacques Guitot |
| IPG-1-WG 2: | Review of the results of the first planning exercise               | Chairman:<br>Mr Nigel Laflin        |
| IPG-1-WG 3: | Planning software and its testing and implementation               | Chairman:<br>Mr Darko Ratkaj        |
| IPG-1-WG 4: | Possible options to facilitate the planning process                | Chairman:<br>Mr Jan Doeven          |

|                 |                             |                                   |
|-----------------|-----------------------------|-----------------------------------|
| IPG-1-ad hoc 1: | Equitable access            | Chairman:<br>Mr Slimane Djematene |
| IPG-1-ad hoc 2: | Administrative declarations | Chairman:<br>Mr Anders Frederich  |

The meeting was informed that the Chairmen of the four working groups will also be supported by the Vice-Chairmen of IPG, namely Mr S. Djematene for WG 1, Mr A. Nalbandian for WG 2, Ms I. Ghazi for WG 3 and Mr A. Frederich for WG 4 in order to ensure regional balance.

The IPG-1 Steering Group will be composed of the IPG Chairman and Vice-Chairmen, the WG Chairmen, the BR representatives and the Team Leader of PXT, as well as two honorary members Messrs Ken Hunt and Terry O'Leary from EBU.

The IPG-1 input documents were allocated to the groups as listed in Document IPG-1/ADM/1, as amended.

The Chairman urged the regional representatives to attend the ad hoc 2 meetings. It was pointed out that the work will be conducted in English and ad hoc groups will meet outside the meeting working hours.

### **7.1 Working assumptions, missing criteria and results of ITU-R studies**

The Chairman of Working Group 1, Mr Jean-Jacques Guitot, introduced part of the conclusions of that working group as contained in Document IPG-1/37(Rev.1). The working assumptions regarding Chapter 2 of RRC-04 Report were endorsed (see Annex 1).

Document IPG-1/38 relates to the working assumption regarding Chapter 1 of the RRC-04 Report. It was also approved with some amendments, i.e. assumption 2, 3, 4, 5 and 8 (see Annex 2).

The Chairman of Working Group 1 introduced another part of the conclusions of that working group, as contained in Document IPG-1/41. The working assumptions regarding Chapters 3, 5 and 6 of the RRC-04 Report were endorsed with amendments (see Annexes 3 to 5).

BR stated that for all working assumptions the following principle would be applied:

“Unless otherwise indicated, the assumptions agreed for the first planning exercise are also applicable for the establishment of the draft plan”.

There was considerable debate on some items as summarized below:

With respect to Chapter 3 item 1, it was clarified that the value of 95 per cent should be kept.

With regard to Chapter 6 item 1, there were discussions on the issue of which spectrum mask should be taken and whether the least conservative mask should be used as default. IPG endorsed this assumption without amendment.

Item 3 was discussed next. The issues will be dealt with in the section of the report addressing administrative declarations. (See section 8.)

Concerning item 15, it was agreed that BR should contact administrations first to seek their advice and, subsequently, seek advice from the relevant ITU-R study groups/working parties and from RPG.

The Chairman of WG 1 introduced Document IPG-1/40(Rev.1).

The working assumptions regarding Chapter 4 of the RRC-04 Report were endorsed with the modification of item 7 (see Annex 6).



Document IPG-1/44 and Addendum 1 – including the liaison statements to the various working parties and the RPG – were approved with some amendments (see Annexes 7 to 13).

## **7.2 Review of the results of the first planning exercise**

Document IPG-1/39 was introduced by the Chairman of Working Group 2, Mr Nigel Laflin. This document provides a list of items to be further examined by the PXT. He indicated that the results of detailed analysis should be provided by the PXT by September 2005, at the latest. IPG STG has been requested to supervise this process (see Annex 14).

The Chairman of WG 2 introduced Document IPG-1/47.

The proposals on a request to administrations about ways to review their previously submitted requirements and to prepare a set of requirements that would result in a workable plan were endorsed with some modifications (see Annex 15).

Administrations are kindly requested to consider the conclusions (item 8) of Annex 15 and to take them into account when submitting their requirements to the Bureau for the preparation of the draft plan.

Final consideration was given to Document IPG-1/39, and it was agreed to read the date in the last paragraph as “September 2005”.

At the request of the Chairman of the IPG, Mr Ken Hunt (EBU) made a presentation on behalf of the PXT reflecting some considerations on the results of the planning process and the input data. This presentation may be found under:

[http://www.itu.int/ITU-R/conferences/rrc/rrc-04/intersession/ipg/elec\\_pub/docs/ipg-1-ep5e.ppt](http://www.itu.int/ITU-R/conferences/rrc/rrc-04/intersession/ipg/elec_pub/docs/ipg-1-ep5e.ppt).

## **7.3 Planning software and its testing and implementation**

The Chairman of WG 3 presented Document IPG-1/43, which contains the output of the group on the software supporting the planning process.

IPG endorsed the document and in particular the conclusion given in sections 2.7, 4.8 and 6.5 (see Annex 16). In particular, the Bureau confirmed that the new data query software package will be made available by 15 August 2005.

Further to the request from some administrations, PXT agreed to compile a document with detailed data on software and to make it available on the web. PXT invited administrations to identify missing information and inform the Bureau accordingly either directly or through their regional representatives in the PXT.

In reply to the request by the Arab Group that software be translated into all five languages of the planning area, the Bureau indicated that this will be done gradually, taking into account available resources and other priorities.

Syria stated that the Report of the RRC-04 should have been published some time ago in all five languages. The Syrian delegate also requested the ITU General Secretariat to accelerate the publication of the RRC Report as a book.

The Bureau confirmed that the report will be made available as a document in Arabic prior to the Damascus BR information meeting, both electronically and in paper format.

## **7.4 Possible options to facilitate the planning process**

The Chairman of WG 4 presented Document IPG-1/45, which contains the output of the group on various options to facilitate the establishment of the new digital broadcasting plan. IPG agreed that

the PXT, in consultation with the IPG-STG, proceeds to carry out the additional planning exercises listed in that document (see Annex 17) with the understanding that the activities related to the production of the draft plan remain the basic action as agreed by RRC-04.

The IPG also endorsed a liaison statement to Working Party 3K (Attachment 1 to Annex 17) inviting Working Party 3K to review the option of using five per cent of time for interference calculations for Zones C and D and to identify if there are any other geographical areas in the planning area for which this option could be implemented.

Regarding Attachment 2 of Annex 17, particular attention of the administrations was drawn to the measures contained in that document for consideration by individual administrations in their bi- and multilateral negotiations to reduce the number of incompatibilities.

## **8 Issues related to the preparation of the draft plan (including measures for implementing the principle of equitable access)**

It was noted that issues raised in Documents IPG-1/3 and IPG-1/35 had already been considered by the various working groups and thus no further action was necessary on these documents.

Regarding Document IPG-1/22, pertaining to the review of the time schedules for production of the draft plan – in the context of the submission of administrative declarations – the discussion focused on the proposal for a reduction of the available time for validation, correction and publication of input data from 3 months to 2.5 months and the subsequent treatment of administrative declarations. BR indicated that this reduction is not feasible as has been confirmed by the experience gained through the first planning exercise. Other aspects that should also be taken into account are the 31 October 2005 deadline, which also applies to requests for modifications of the ST61 Plan, the completion of which is a prerequisite for the conversion from analogue assignments into digital requirements; and the expected high volume of incoming notices. Germany explained that administrations would need at least two weeks after publication of the requirements to produce their administrative declarations. A lengthy discussion resulted in the following:

The Bureau will post on the ITU website the requirements “as received” prior to its validation, and will also publish any corrections while keeping to the current 3-month time schedule. A group will be set up to further discuss this option and related issues which will be composed of the Bureau and two representatives per region.

With respect to the last paragraph of Document IPG-1/22, it was agreed that the results should preferably be made available at least one week before the beginning of the IPG-2 meeting.

The Convener of the Group in question introduced the time schedule for production of the draft plan as contained in Document IPG-1/50.

IPG-1 endorsed the proposed amendments to the time schedule in Annex 2 to Resolution COM5/1 of RRC-04.

In particular, new intermediate steps for the submission of administrative declarations (27 January 2006 and 20 March 2005) as well as for the publication of the additional synthesis results (31 March 2006) were agreed and incorporated.

The IPG-2 meeting was set to 20-24 February 2006, and an IPG working group meeting will be held from 28 to 29 September 2005.

It was noted that the Bureau will publish individual requirement files as soon as they are validated (under the understanding that the fields relating to the conversion from analogue to digital will not be completely validated) with the intention to publish all requirements by 13 January 2006. The

validation of the remaining field will be done by 31 January 2006, i.e. the final date for the publication of the complete requirement file.

It was confirmed that the deadline for submission of administrative declarations would also apply to withdrawals, since there should always be a complete file of declarations submitted replacing the previous one, if any.

Syria reserved the position of the Arab Group to come back to the issue of administrative declarations, as this issue has not yet been applied by the Arab Group.

IPG-1 invited the Bureau to publish the initial results of compatibility analysis and synthesis calculations not later than one week before the second IPG meeting which has been postponed by one week (see Annex 18).

Document IPG-1/31(Add.1) was considered next. The views of the IPG STG on items 1, 2 and 3, and the PXT assumptions on items 4, 5 and 6 were endorsed (see Annex 19).

Document IPG-1/DT/1 was introduced. The Bureau summarized the problems arising from the 31 October 2005 deadline, for assignments completing the coordination procedures and received after that date, which cannot be included in the compatibility assessment process, and their impact on the digital plan. A similar problem exists for assignments to other primary services when applying the current provisions of the RR.

IPG concurred with the suggestion included in item 3 and agreed to ask administrations of Member States in the planning area to abstain, on a voluntary basis, from modifications to the ST61 and GE89 Plans as well as from notifying frequency assignments of primary services with a view to facilitating the consideration of this issue by RRC-06.

The Chairman of ad hoc Group 1, Mr S. Djematene, presented Document IPG-1/48 containing proposed instructions to the PXT for the application of the principle of equitable access, for approval.

The Chairman of IPG thanked the Chairman of ad hoc Group 1 and all members of that group.

The meeting endorsed the document in total with the clarification that the PXT shall provide a progress report to the IPG Working Group in September (see Annex 20).

Document IPG-1/49 on administrative declarations was introduced by the Chairman of ad hoc Group 2, Mr A. Frederich.

In its section 7.1 on the issue of information necessary for administrative declarations, an additional item "general agreement between administrations" was inserted.

With respect to a deadline for withdrawals of administrative declarations prior to and during the Conference, it was clarified that this would normally be before the last synthesis process is performed, but it was also pointed out that this is an issue for RRC-06 to consider.

The document, was endorsed as amended by IPG (see Annex 21).

## **9 Preparation of the second IPG meeting**

The Chairman of IPG introduced a proposal to have a meeting of 2-3 days towards the end of September 2005 for a working group of the IPG.

The Director, BR, indicated that there would be a possibility of a 2-day meeting from 28 to 29 September 2005. He also referred to the fact that the documentation service might be overloaded during that period, and consequently it is unlikely that any input documents will be

produced between IPG-1 and IPG working group meetings, and that there would be no interpretation service.

After some discussions, IPG-1 endorsed the proposal to hold the IPG working group from 28 to 29 September 2005, in Geneva (English language will only be used for the meeting and documentation) with the following main items on its agenda:

- review of the implementation of the additional planning exercises including use of variants as contained in Annex 17, as they become available;
- progress report on the implementation of the principle of equitable access as contained in Annex 20.

The Chairman of IPG will finalize the draft agenda for the IPG-WG meeting.

Based on the endorsement of the changes to the time schedule in Annex 2 to Resolution COM5/1 of RRC-04 and the additional activities to be carried out (see Annex 18), IPG-1 agreed on the postponement of IPG-2 by one week, i.e. from 20 to 24 February 2006.

## **10 Issues related to the second session of RRC**

The United Kingdom presented Document IPG-1/29, which includes a proposal for the subdivision of the RRC planning area. This proposal aims to facilitate the process during the conference. It was mentioned that this course of action was followed by several conferences in the past.

The Chairman indicated that the document was not subject to the approval of the meeting. He also stated that IPG-2 could further discuss and maybe make suggestions for consideration by the second session. Administrations were invited to review the documents and provide comments through their regional organizations to the regional informal meeting relating to preparation for RRC-06.

## **11 Consideration and approval of the report of the first IPG meeting**

Document IPG-1/42 (First part of the report) was reviewed. On agenda item 3, in the 5th paragraph, the phrase "The second ATU meeting" was corrected to read "the second preparatory meeting and workshop for the African countries". With that amendment, the first part of the report was approved.

Document IPG-1/42 (Addendum 1) was reviewed and endorsed.

In reply to the Chairman whether all points were clear, the Bureau confirmed that the output reflects the discussions and gives enough guidance for the Bureau and PXT.

Syria reiterated its previous statement made on behalf of the Arab States that "it is not up to the Bureau to interpret conference Resolutions".

Document IPG-1/42 (Addendum 2) was approved.

The summary report of the fifth plenary session was reviewed and approved (Document IPG-1/42(Add.3)).

IPG-1 authorized the Chairman of IPG to approve, where necessary, in consultation with the Vice-Chairmen of IPG and the WG Chairmen, the remaining part of the summary report emanating from Friday's afternoon plenary sessions.

The final report of the IPG-1 will be translated into the five official languages of the planning area, and distributed, as appropriate.

## **12 Any other business**

The observer from Palestine, in accordance with Resolution 99 (PP-98) made a statement which is annexed to this report (see Annex 22).

In his closing remarks, the Chairman of IPG, looking forward to the forthcoming conference, said that RRC-06 will be the most complex planning conference in the history of the ITU. He requested the regional groups to proceed with their preparations to RRC-06 and also encouraged all kind of subregional activities.

Finally, he thanked the Director, BR, for his continued support and advice to the intersessional activities. He also expressed its appreciation to Mr Trajco Gavrilov for his efforts and contribution to the above-mentioned activities. The IPG Chairman then expressed its gratitude to the PXT and its Team Leader Mr Pham Hai and, in particular, to the two EBU experts for their outstanding performance and tireless efforts for the planning exercise activities. He extended the IPG appreciation to the other involved Bureau's staff including Mr Alberto Mendez and Mr Wolfgang Frank for their valuable contributions to the intersessional planning activities. The Chairman also expressed his sincere thanks and gratitude to the IPG Vice-Chairmen, the IPG-1 Working Group and ad hoc Group Chairmen and all the other ITU Departments and Divisions involved. Last but not least he thanked all the delegates for their active and constructive participation and contributions to the meeting. Similarly, the Chairman thanked the interpreters, without their help the IPG-1 would not have come to successful conclusions.

The representative of the African Group thanked the Bureau for accepting late submissions from African countries. He also underlined the need for ongoing assistance.

Syria, on behalf of the Arab States, highly appreciated the IPG Chairman for his patience, skills and outstanding performance in conducting the IPG-1 in an efficient and productive manner. The meeting endorsed the statement of Syria..

The meeting rose at 1730 hours.

**Annexes:** 22 (only included in the CD-ROM)

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