

INTERNATIONAL TELECOMMUNICATION UNION



Radiocommunication Bureau

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Administrative Circular
CA/199

5 August 2011

To Administrations of Member States of ITU and Radiocommunication Sector Members

Subject: Summary of conclusions of the eighteenth Radiocommunication Advisory Group meeting

Reference: Administrative Circular CA/194 of 17 December 2010

- 1 The Radiocommunication Advisory Group (RAG) met for the eighteenth time from 8 to 10 June 2011 in Geneva.
- 2 The summary of conclusions of the meeting is contained in Annex 1 to this letter.
- 3 Additional information about this meeting may be found on the RAG website at <http://www.itu.int/ITU-R/go/RAG>.

François Rancy
Director, Radiocommunication Bureau

Annex: 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

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Radiocommunication Advisory Group
Geneva, 8-10 June 2011



10 June 2011

**EIGHTEENTH MEETING OF THE
RADIOCOMMUNICATION ADVISORY GROUP
SUMMARY OF CONCLUSIONS**

SUMMARY OF CONCLUSIONS

Agenda Item No.	Subject	Conclusions
3.1	Council issues – Cost recovery for the maintenance of satellite assignments recorded in the MIFR (<i>Docs. RAG11-1/1(Rev.1) (§ 2.1) + (Add.4) and RAG11-1/15 (§ 3)</i>)	RAG noted the information contained in the Director's report. Having regard to Article 11A of the Convention and taking into account that this is a policy issue and quite complex and very sensitive, RAG concluded that it is not in a position to consider the matter. RAG noted, however, that the objectives of satellite cost recovery are neither to generate revenue for the Union nor to ensure the application of the principle of equitable access for the use of the spectrum/orbit resource; nor are the objectives to deal with satellite backlog and paper satellites. Consequently, in any further development of the issue, the above-mentioned points together with various arguments put forward during the discussion related to the matter, including the timeliness and appropriateness of the proposed approach, especially the strong concerns expressed on any possible revision to Council Decision 482 (modified 2008), need to be considered by competent entities such as the Council and the Plenipotentiary Conference as regards the policy and financial aspects and a competent WRC as regards the regulatory aspects.
3.2	PP issues – ITU-R publications (Decision 12 (Guadalajara, 2010) and Resolution 66 (Rev. Guadalajara, 2010)) (<i>Docs. RAG11-1/1(Rev.1) (§§ 3.5, 3.6) and (Add.1)</i>)	RAG noted the considerable increase in downloads of ITU-R Recommendations since their access was made free online. During the discussions, a request was made for the Secretariat to provide an estimation of the loss of revenue that could result from the free online access to the Radio Regulations, as mentioned in <i>recognizing h</i>) of PP-10 Decision 12. RAG noted the application of market prices to ITU-R publications since 1st January 2011 in accordance with the new ITU Publication Pricing and Sales Policy resulting from the implementation of PP-10 Resolution 66. RAG noted the information provided by the Chief of the ITU Conferences and Publications Department on the good results obtained so far from the sales of the new List V of ship stations (20% increase in revenue with respect to 2010 figures) and on comments received regarding its new format. RAG expressed concern with the application of market prices to publications which are mandatory according to the Radio Regulations. During the discussions, a request was made for the Secretariat to make the ITU Publication Pricing and Sales Policy available as an information document.
	PP issues – Date of CPM15-1 (<i>Docs. RAG11-1/1(Rev.1) (§ 3.2.1)</i>)	RAG discussed the options presented in the Director's report and concluded that the first session of the CPM (CPM15-1) should take place immediately after the WRC-12.

Agenda Item No.	Subject	Conclusions
3.2.1	PP issues – Contributions and registration (Resolution 165 (Guadalajara, 2010)) (Docs. RAG11-1/1(Rev.1) (§ 3.8) and RAG11-1/8)	During the discussions, some administrations considered that deadline harmonization would be useful and it would be necessary to have deadlines not only for membership contributions but for the Secretariat to post all documents, including documents from the Secretariat, in advance to give reasonable time to the members to analyse them before the meetings. RAG expressed general support for the need for deadlines and satisfaction with the implementation of the current deadline contained in Resolution ITU-R 1-5. While acknowledging the desirability of harmonizing deadlines across the ITU Sectors, RAG recognized that due to the different working methods and requirements of the Study Groups in each Sector, harmonization may be difficult to implement and each Sector should determine appropriate deadlines to meet their requirements. In order to expedite the Secretariat's preparation of meeting documents, RAG noted that members should be encouraged to submit their contributions using the applicable ITU templates.
4.1	Study group issues (Doc. RAG11-1/6)	RAG noted the document and concluded that Study Groups should be encouraged to continue to study the matter towards facilitating the roaming of radio and broadcasting equipment taking into account the use of different standards. As a general guiding principle, the Study Groups should strive for harmonized worldwide standards.
	(Doc. RAG11-1/15 (§ 3))	RAG concluded that, in developing Recommendations, Study Groups should be invited to fully respect the letter and spirit of the Radio Regulations, such that references to provisions of the RR should be factual and avoid any interpretation or qualification of the Radio Regulations.
	(Doc. RAG11-1/17)	RAG noted the views of delegations that there seems to be no practical problem in the study of regulatory/procedural matters by Study Groups and Working Parties. A view was expressed that Resolution ITU-R 2 already provides adequate provision for SGs/WPs to study regulatory/procedural matters to be used in support of the work of radiocommunication conferences. Other views supported proposals to clarify the matter (e.g. modifications to Resolution ITU-R 38 or other options). RAG concluded that the issue should be referred to the Radiocommunication Assembly for further discussion.
	(Doc. RAG11-1/15 (§ 9))	RAG noted the points raised in the document and agreed that the workload during SG and WP meetings should be properly coordinated and smoothly distributed. In particular, the view was expressed that scheduling of the meeting during the weekend and beyond normal working hours should normally be avoided unless absolutely necessary.

Agenda Item No.	Subject	Conclusions
4.2	Study Group issues – Liaison and collaboration with other Sectors and organizations (Docs. RAG11-1/1(Rev.1) (§ 4.4), 22)	RAG noted the reports on liaison activities in different areas of common interest, including spectrum management (e.g. implementation of Resolution ITU-R 11), intelligent transportation systems, and power line telecommunication (PLT) systems. Regarding PLT, the convener of the ITU Forum on PLT issues , held on 27 May 2011, was invited to prepare and make available some summary notes from the meeting in addition to the existing Press Release .
4.3	Study Group issues – Electronic working methods (EDH) (Docs. RAG11-1/5, 15 (§ 10), 18)	RAG discussed the report of the coordinator of CG-EDH and noted that SGs, when preparing Recommendations containing hyperlinks, should find solutions for making the linked information available if the Recommendation is to be incorporated by reference into the RR. RAG expressed satisfaction with the efforts made by the Secretariat to work paperless in ITU-R meetings. RAG noted the suggestions made at this meeting and advised the Director to continue to investigate methods and tools to improve capabilities for electronic meetings as called for in Resolution 167 (Guadalajara, 2010).
5	BR information systems (Doc. RAG11-1/14(Rev.1))	RAG agreed to establish a Correspondence Group to review and define requirements for a consolidated and integrated BR information system for the treatment of space and terrestrial notices, largely shared with the membership, and establish a roadmap for its implementation, together with a workplan and costs involved. The issue of whether or not to opt for full or partial outsourcing of the project together with its advantages and drawbacks needs to be clearly and comprehensively described and documented. The matter should be reported in a timely manner to the Council. The mandate of the Group is contained in Annex 1. RAG, while establishing the Correspondence Group, recalls that the Bureau in developing and operating its spectrum management information systems has the obligation and responsibility to: implement relevant decisions and resolutions of Plenipotentiary Conferences, Council, World and Regional Radiocommunication Conferences related to the Radio Regulations and Regional Agreements; provide uninterrupted service to the membership by assuring the security and stability of its ICT systems and applications; and ensure that the service provided corresponds to the requirements and expectations of the membership and those of the service departments of the Bureau. The development and implementation of such an integrated information system shall in no way result in any backlog, in particular during the migration from the current information system to the planned integrated system. It should also be emphasized that once the planned integrated system reaches its final stage, all intellectual properties and software source codes should be transferred to the Bureau and remain the exclusive property of the Bureau with all associated rights. These obligations and responsibilities should be embedded in the outcomes of the work of the Group.

Agenda Item No.	Subject	Conclusions
6	RA-12 preparations (Doc. RAG11-1/1 (§ 5))	RAG endorsed the Director's opinion that it would be unnecessary to provide a CD-ROM of the output files at the end of the RA and that the Book of ITU-R Resolutions be compiled immediately after the RA and be made freely available in electronic format.
6.1	RA-12 preparations – Resolution ITU-R 1 (Docs. RAG11-1/3, 15 (§ 8), 20, 21, 24)	RAG considered the various proposals relating to working methods and other relevant resolutions and decided to establish a Correspondence Group to address these matters. RAG noted that the considerations related to the possible treatment of Opinion ITU-R 95 could be dealt within the framework of the activities of the correspondence group. The terms of reference of the Correspondence Group are contained in Annex 2.
6.2	RA-12 preparations – Conformance and interoperability of radio equipment – Resolution 177 (Guadalajara, 2010) (Docs. RAG11-1/1(Rev.1) (§ 3.10), 4, 10)	RAG noted the matters raised in Documents 1(Rev.1) (§ 3.10), 4 and 10 and was of the view that it is premature to take any firm position on this matter. ITU-R should monitor the outcome of the internal ITU inter-Sector task force and the consideration of the business plan that will be presented in the TSB Director's report to the Council.
6.3	RA-12 preparations – Number of Vice-Chairmen – Resolution 166 (Guadalajara, 2010) (Docs. RAG11-1/1(Rev.1) (§ 3.9), 9, 15 (§ 5), 16)	RAG recognized the need to evolve criteria for the selection of Vice-Chairmen in response to Resolution 166, taking into account the different working methods and requirements of ITU-R, and decided to establish a Correspondence Group. The terms of reference of the Correspondence Group on Resolution 166 (Guadalajara, 2010) are contained in Annex 3.
6.4	RA-12 preparations – Inter-Sector Rapporteur Groups (Doc. RAG11-1/2 + (Add.1))	RAG considered the proposal to revise Resolution ITU-R 6 to establish the procedures for setting up IRGs, noting that TSAG had agreed with a similar proposal (see Resolution ITU-T 18). RAG requested the Director to consult with the Directors of the other Bureaux on the mechanisms and merits of establishing these Groups.
6.5	RA-12 preparations – Climate change (Doc. RAG11-1/12)	RAG noted the proposal to adopt a new ITU-R Resolution on the use of wireless technologies and radio systems for environment protection and mitigation of the effect of climate change that will determine the main activities of ITU-R on the use of radiocommunications for combating climate change, including the use of innovative wireless technologies, and taking into account the work being carried out in the other Sectors of ITU.

Agenda Item No.	Subject	Conclusions
6.6	RA-12 preparations – WSIS (Doc. RAG11-1/11)	RAG noted the proposal for the RA to adopt a new ITU-R Resolution on the role of ITU-R in implementing the outcomes of the World Summit on the Information Society.
7.2	WRC-12 preparations – BR and regional activities (Doc. RAG11-1/1(Rev.1) (§ 6.2))	RAG discussed the need for holding the third information meeting on WRC-12 preparation planned for 7-8 November 2011. RAG invited the Director to pursue consultations with the regional groups and other members on this issue.
8.2	Operational Plan (Docs. RAG11-1/1(Rev.1) (§ 7), 15 (§ 4))	In considering the draft Operational Plan for 2012-2015, RAG requested the inclusion of activities related to Resolution 140 (Rev. Guadalajara, 2010) on WSIS.
8.3	Strategic Plan (Docs. RAG11-1/1(Rev.1) (§ 3.1), 7)	RAG agreed to establish a Correspondence Group on the ITU-R Strategic Plan with the terms of reference as contained in Annex 4.
11	Date of next meeting	RAG took note of the proposed dates for its 19th meeting planned for 25 to 27 June 2012 (2 ½ days), in conjunction with TSAG and TDAG meetings.
12	Other business – WCIT-12	RAG noted Council Decision 1312 which calls upon ITU-R Study Groups to carry out studies in preparation for WCIT-12. RAG requests the Director to include a link on the ITU-R website to the WCIT-12 webpages.
	Other business – Report of Resolution ITU-R 52	RAG has authorized the Chairman, in consultation with the Vice-Chairmen, to prepare the report to the 2012 Radiocommunication Assembly on the results of implementing Resolution ITU-R 52.

Annex 1

Terms of reference of the Correspondence Group on BR information systems

1 Scope of work

The Correspondence Group shall prepare a report intended to provide advice to the Director, BR, on the following aspects, taking into account the summary of conclusions of the 18th meeting of RAG:

- review existing software and databases;
- review notice processing workflows;
- review the means to ensure the security and integrity of the software and databases;
- evaluate existing platforms;
- evaluate cost/benefit implications and give recommendations;
- prioritize recommendations;
- establish target dates and a roadmap based on the recommendations.

2 Form of work

The Correspondence Group shall work by correspondence. Some physical meetings of the members of the Correspondence Group may be foreseen, if strictly necessary.

3 Working methods

Access for the members of the Correspondence Group to documentation from the Bureau is under the authorization of the Director. The Group may conduct interviews, surveys, use questionnaires or any other means appropriate to achieve the targets described above.

4 Time-frame

The Correspondence Group shall start its work as of 1 July 2011. The Correspondence Group shall complete its work and its Chairman shall submit the Group's report to RAG by the 2012 meeting of RAG.

5 Composition

The Correspondence Group shall be composed of members from the membership, the Radiocommunication Bureau and the ITU Information Services Department.

The Chairman of the Correspondence Group is Mr Peter Major, Hungary (e-mail: pmajor@bluewin.ch), assisted by Mr Scott Kotler, United States (e-mail: skotler@ntia.doc.gov).

BR will provide the secretariat support for the Correspondence Group.

Sharepoint site: Available on the RAG website at <http://www.itu.int/ITU-R/go/RAG>.

Annex 2

Terms of reference of the Correspondence Group on Resolution ITU-R 1-5

The terms of reference of the RAG Correspondence Group on Resolution ITU-R 1-5 are:

- to consider possible modifications to Resolution ITU-R 1-5 and any consequential changes to other relevant ITU-R Resolutions and opinions, including:
 - the consideration of mechanisms to accelerate the approval process for Recommendations in application of the provisions in Resolutions ITU-R 1 and 45;
 - the clarification of the adoption and approval processes for other ITU-R outputs (reports, questions, decisions, opinions and handbooks);
 - the consideration of guidelines on the development of ITU-R Recommendations;
 - the development of proposals for the revised Resolutions.

The output of the Correspondence Group's review is to be submitted to the 2012 Radiocommunication Assembly through the Director.

The Chairman of the Correspondence Group is Mr Robin Haines, United States (e-mail: rhaines@ntia.doc.gov), assisted by Mr Kavouss Arasteh, Iran, Islamic Rep. of (e-mail: kavouss.arasteh@ties.itu.int).

Sharepoint site: Available on the RAG website at <http://www.itu.int/ITU-R/go/RAG>.

Annex 3

Terms of reference of the Correspondence Group on Resolution 166 (Guadalajara, 2010)

The terms of reference of the Correspondence Group on Resolution 166 are:

- to develop criteria for the selection of Vice-Chairmen of RAG, ITU-R Study Groups and other ITU-R groups in response to Resolution 166, using Annex 2 to Resolution ITU-R 15 as the basis for the criteria and taking into account the need for gender balance, and the criteria being applied in both ITU-T and ITU-D, in addition to those criteria mentioned in Resolution 166.

The output of the Correspondence Group, preferably in the form of a draft modification to Resolution ITU-R 15, is to be submitted to the 2012 Radiocommunication Assembly through the Director.

The Chairman of the Correspondence Group is Ms Janis Doran, Canada
(e-mail: janis.doran@ic.gc.ca), assisted by Mr Vladimir Minkin, Russian Federation
(e-mail: minkin-niir@mail.ru).

Sharepoint site: Available on the RAG website <http://www.itu.int/ITU-R/go/RAG>.

Annex 4

Terms of reference of the Correspondence Group on the ITU-R Strategic Plan

The Correspondence Group on the ITU-R Strategic Plan will take into account the proposals made to the 18th meeting of the RAG and examine those parts of the Strategic Plan relating to ITU-R, as contained in the Annex to Resolution 71 (Rev. Guadalajara 2010), with a view to review and clarify, as appropriate:

- the strategic objectives of ITU-R;
- the respective roles of BR and other bodies of ITU-R;
- the ITU-R activities, their inputs and outputs;
- the links between the objectives and the strategic goals of ITU-R and those of ITU.

The Group shall be composed of members from the membership and BR.

The Group shall normally meet by correspondence/remote participation and shall report to RAG at its 2012 meeting.

The Chairman of the Correspondence Group is Mr Kavouss Arasteh, Iran (Islamic Rep. of) (e-mail: kavouss.arasteh@ties.itu.int), assisted by Ms Veena Rawat, Canada (e-mail: verawat@rim.com).

Sharepoint site: Available on the RAG website at <http://www.itu.int/ITU-R/go/RAG>.