



Radiocommunication Bureau (BR)

Administrative Circular
CA/260

22 April 2022

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

Subject: **Summary of conclusions of the twenty-ninth Radiocommunication Advisory Group meeting**

The Radiocommunication Advisory Group (RAG) met for the twenty-ninth time from 11 to 14 April 2022.

The summary of conclusions of the meeting is contained in the attachment to this letter.

Additional information about this meeting may be found on the RAG website at www.itu.int/ITU-R/go/RAG.

Mario Maniewicz
Director

Attachment: 1

Distribution:

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

**SUMMARY OF CONCLUSIONS OF THE
TWENTY-NINTH RADIOCOMMUNICATION ADVISORY GROUP MEETING**

(Source: Doc. RAG/TEMP/7-Rev.4)

Agenda Item	Subject / Document(s)	Conclusions
1	Opening remarks	<p>The meeting was opened by the Chairman of the RAG, Mr. Daniel Obam (Kenya).</p> <p>In his opening remarks, the Chairman of the RAG appreciated the participation of the Secretary General, and all three Directors.</p> <p>The ITU Secretary-general delivered his opening remarks. He acknowledged the success of the WTSA and noted the upcoming WTDC and PP conferences that will take place in 2022. The SG reminded the participants of the construction of the new building and invited Member States to host ITU-R meetings.</p> <p>The TSB Director welcomed the participants and thanked the meeting for the invitation to address the RAG. He thanked the RAG for the collaboration with the ITU-T Sector.</p> <p>The BR Director recalled the work of the RAG in its February meeting, and the results of the Council meeting. He appreciated the revision of the draft ITU-R Strategic Plan which reflects the contribution of the RAG and clearly evidences the work of the ITU-R. He also recognized the work of the correspondence groups and of the inter-sectoral coordination group. Finally, the Director was pleased to confirm the return to physical meetings with remote participation of ITU-R SG & WP as of April, he is confident that this will help advance the work and resolve some of the outstanding controversial issues.</p>

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		<p>The BDT Director gave her opening remarks at the start of the second day of the 2022 RAG meeting. She highlighted the importance of the work of the ITU-R and of wireless communications to advance connectivity. She also reminded the participants of the upcoming WTDC meeting, and the new Partner2Connect and Generation Connect events.</p> <p>Statements from Member States were provided to the Plenary of the RAG and are included in ANNEX 1 of this Summary of Conclusions.</p>
2	<p>Approval of the agenda</p> <p>ADM/4</p>	<p>The draft agenda in Doc. RAG21/ADM/4 was adopted without changes under the conditions that it functions under the strict application of Article 11 A of the Convention.</p>
3	<p>Report to the 29th meeting of the RAG</p>	<p>RAG noted the introduction of the Director’s Report to the meeting as contained in RAG/44 (Rev1).</p>
4	<p>Council Issues</p> <p>44Rev1 (§2.2), INF/17 (C22/16)</p> <p>44Rev1(§2.3 and 6), INF/13 (C22/28)</p>	<p>Taking into account that the 2022 Council meeting was held on 21 to 30 March 2022 preceding this meeting, the RAG noted the results of the Council meeting on the topics relevant to the ITU-R.</p> <p>RAG noted the information provided on Cost recovery for satellite network fillings. RAG noted that BR will be preparing a report assessing whether the cost recovery methodology, which was first established in 2005 and last revised in 2020, is still appropriate, if it covers the actual cost related to the processing of satellite fillings.</p> <p>RAG advised the Director, in doing this assessment, to take into account the actual costs of all staff involved in various departments and divisions of the Radiocommunication Bureau, as well as other costs (direct and indirect) of other parts of the ITU.</p>

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	<p>ITU Operational Plan (BR section) 44Rev1(\$2.3 and 6), INF/13 (C22/28)</p> <p>INF/18 (CWGSFP4/6), INF/15 (C22/27)</p> <p>44Rev1 (\$9.1), INF/14 (C22/53)</p>	<p>Budget matters are under the jurisdiction of the ITU Council. The RAG noted the information provided about the budget for the 2022-2023 periods. RAG noted the ITU-R Operational Plan for the period 2023, which was adopted by the 2022 Council. RAG also noted that the plan only extends through 2023 because the Operational Plan for 2024 onward will have to be aligned with the ITU Strategic Plan for 2024-2027.</p> <p>RAG noted that the results of its February 24th session and the subsequent RAG Ad Hoc Group on the Draft ITU-R Strategic Plan and Results Framework were included in the Draft ITU Strategic Plan that Council endorsed and submitted to the ITU Plenipotentiary Conference. RAG also expressed its appreciation to Ad Hoc Group participants and its chair, Mr. Abdouramane, for their efficient and effective work and excellent results. RAG also congratulated Mr. Frederic Sauvage, Chair of the Council Working Group on Strategic and Financial Plan, for the good results achieved.</p> <p>RAG noted that the 2022 Council meeting endorsed, with some amendments, the Draft Policy Framework on Multilingualism (C22/53), which was provided as RAG/INFO/14. RAG also noted that Council requested the Secretariat to develop the administrative and operational guidelines to implement the Policy Framework on Multilingualism and present them to the next session of the ITU Council in 2023. RAG encouraged the ITU to refer relevant sections of the operational guidelines that refer to terminology to CCT for their feedback, noting that the next CCT meeting is scheduled for 3 June. RAG also noted that the discussions at the 2022 Council on the use of additional languages focused on the potential use of local languages at regional offices or websites and not on expanding the list of official ITU languages.</p>
5	<p>Implementation of WRC-19 Decisions</p> <p>44Rev1 (\$3)</p>	<p>RAG noted with appreciation the information provided on the Implementation of WRC-19 decisions relating to terrestrial services, space services and other actions to implement WRC-19 decisions.</p> <p>The RAG thanked the director for the actions to implement the decisions of WRC-19.</p>
6	<p>Study Group Activities</p> <p>44-Rev1 (\$4), 44Rev1 Add 1</p>	<p>RAG noted the report of the ITU-R Study Groups Department found in RAG21/44Rev1 Add. 1.</p> <p>RAG expressed its appreciation for the excellent support and professionalism of the BR Study Groups Department, in particular the counsellors of the Study Groups, and for the efforts of the BR Space and Terrestrial Services Departments for their technical contributions, including valuable contributions on statistics, in particular those relating the WRC-23 agenda items, and to the related work in the ITU-R Study Groups.</p>

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		<p>RAG thanked the Director and the Chief of the Study Group Department for continuing the work during the pandemic and appreciated the benefits of continuing the provision of remote participation in ITU-R meetings.</p> <p>RAG noted the request to encourage the Chairs of the ITU-R Working Parties and Working Groups to make their agendas and other administrative documents, to the extent possible, available as ADMs.</p> <p>RAG encourages the Chair of the Working Parties to consider the matter and decide as appropriate.</p> <p>The RAG noted the discussion on studies on the implementation of provision RR 21.5.</p> <p>RAG encouraged continued active participation of ITU-R membership in the ongoing studies referred to in Document 550 of WRC-19 with a view to timely conclude on an agreed output for implementation by the Bureau.</p>
7	<p>WRC-23 agenda, dates and venue, and related preparations</p> <p>44Rev1 (§5)</p>	<p>RAG noted with appreciation the report on the preparations for WRC-23.</p> <p>The RAG noted that the Council 2021 adopted Decision 623 and Member States approved that the next World Radiocommunication Conference will take place either in Abu Dhabi or Dubai, UAE from 20 November to 15 December 2023, preceded by the 2023 Radiocommunication Assembly (RA-23) from 13-17 November 2023.</p> <p>The RAG expressed its appreciation for the efforts of the BR, the Director, the Deputy to the Director, the Heads of Departments, and the entire BR staff for their tireless and valuable work, beyond the call for duty.</p> <p>RAG noted the challenges that some Working Parties are facing in completing their draft CPM text before the established deadline. RAG recognized the facts that:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. Working Party (WP) 5B is dealing with and responsible for the development of draft CPM texts for 6 out of the 19 specific WRC-23 agenda items; b. WP 5B has only one more planned meeting in July 2022 before the deadline of 21 October 2022 established by the CPM-23 Management Team, to finalize the draft CPM texts on those 6 agenda items and submit them to the CPM Management Team;

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		<p>c. Prevailing circumstances due to COVID-19 which resulted in significant difficulties for WP 5B to timely finalize several of those draft CPM texts within the above-mentioned deadline, as contained in Addendum 1 to Administrative Circular CA/251;</p> <p>In view of the above and notwithstanding the objective of Paragraph A1.7 of Annex 1 to Resolution ITU-R 2-8, the RAG favoured that the situation be considered by CPM Steering Committee as soon as possible with a view to possible modification to the deadline for submission to the respective Chapter Rapporteur(s) of the final draft CPM texts from WP 5B and other working parties, if so requested, and the results be contained in an Addendum to Administrative Circular CA/251, if the above-mentioned deadline is modified.</p> <p>In case of a postponement/extension of the deadline beyond 21 October 2022, before proceeding with the extension, it needs to consult with the ITU Conferences and Publications Department to identify/verify whether there would be any major difficulties to comply with the obligation of Section A1.7 of Resolution ITU-R 2-8 as stated below due to the unusually high volume of documents to be translated in 2022.</p> <p><i>“The consolidated draft CPM Report shall be translated into the six official languages of the Union and shall be available in electronic format a minimum of two months prior to the date scheduled for the second session of CPM”</i></p> <p>The CPM Steering Committee is therefore invited to inform the Director of the Radiocommunication Bureau of the results of its findings.</p>
8	BR Information System 44Rev1 (§7.1, 7.4), INF/19, 50, 53	<p>RAG noted with appreciation the progress in the development of BR Information Systems that support the filing of systems under the terrestrial services and space services.</p> <p>RAG noted the request of the BR for Administrations to volunteer to test software related to space services. Slovakia promptly volunteered. Canada, France, Russia, Brazil, Kenya, Cote D’Ivoire, and Ghana also volunteered. Other Administrations are most welcome to volunteer if they so wish.</p> <p>RAG noted and appreciated the presentation on past, current and future software developments to implement Res. 907 and 908. RAG also noted the information and proposals presented in RAG/50 and RAG/53 from Japan and France,</p>

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		<p>respectively. RAG expressed its thanks and appreciation to Japan for their support to the BR on the implementation of Res. 907 and 908. RAG believes the resultant improvements in BR tools help both developed and developing countries, which has been the focus of the BR.</p> <p>RAG joined in the appeal of the Director for Voluntary Contributions to support the continuation of enhancements to BR software for e-Communications and e-Submissions under Res. 907 and 908.</p> <p>RAG invited the Director to bring to the attention of the Member States the desirability of using only one of the multiple methods of communication with the Bureau and with the other Member States, preferably the e-Communications (following Res. 907) for space services and emails for terrestrial services.</p> <p>RAG encourages Administrations to use the Satellite interference reporting and resolution system (SIRRS). In considering the report of the Director related to software developments and related activities, the RAG concluded that the Bureau should continue to focus on technical, administrative, and non-legislative issues, unless such legislative issues are decided by WRC or RRB.</p> <p>It was also concluded that the Bureau should not put any issue of regulatory nature which was not adopted by WRC or by RRB in its circular letter.</p>
9	<p>Outreach</p> <p>44Rev1 (§8.3), INF/23, INF/24</p> <p>44Rev1 (§8.1, 8.2, 8.5, 8.6), INF/12</p>	<p>RAG recognizes the invaluable assistance the BR provides to the Member States, in particular to developing countries and LDCs. RAG noted with great appreciation the recent achievements in Africa supporting the work of Administrations to expand FM broadcasting through the GE84 Optimization and PRIDA (Policy on Regulation Initiative for Digital Africa).¹</p> <p>RAG noted the report of the Director, along with INF/12 and INF/16, on the BR outreach activities.</p>

¹ PRIDA Guidelines and Reports are available at <https://www.itu.int/en/ITU-D/Projects/ITU-EC-ACP/PRIDA/Pages/default.aspx>

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	INF/16	RAG expressed its appreciation for the BR's publication of the RR Navigation Tool (2021 Edition) as well as the WRC-23 Booklet: Agenda and relevant Resolutions.
10	<p>Implementing the WRC-19 Gender Declaration (Gender Equity)</p> <p>INF/22</p> <p>44Rev1 (§8.7) 46, 48, 52</p>	<p>RAG noted the presentation on the activities of the Network of Women for WRC23 (NOW4WRC23) and expressed its appreciation for its work to encourage and ensure women's active participation and engagement in the work of the ITU-R.</p> <p>RAG noted with appreciation the progress of CG-1 and requested the group to continue their work, according to their terms of reference, taking into account the proposals and discussions at the 29th meeting of the RAG. RAG encouraged ITU-R membership to actively participate in the work of CG-1. See Annex 3.</p>
11	<p>Work of RAG CG-2 on Possible Revisions of Resolutions ITU-R 1-8 and 15-6</p> <p>40, 45, 47, 51, 54</p>	RAG noted with appreciation the progress of CG-2 (Modifications to Res 1-8) in addressing its terms of reference. Noting that there remain some issues yet to be addressed in its draft Revision to Res 1-8 and that its current mandate expires at the end of this meeting, RAG approved the revised Terms of Reference for CG-2 that are shown in Annex 2.
12	<p>Intersectoral Activities</p> <p>44Rev1 (§8.4)</p> <p>37, 38 (ITU-T)</p>	<p>RAG noted the report of the Director on BR's inter-sectoral activities and request that future reports to the RAG in this area include the inter-sectoral work on vocabulary conducted in ITU CCT.</p> <p>RAG noted the liaison statements presented by TSB and considered that the ad-hoc group on governance and management of e-meetings cannot propose modifications to the ITU governance framework beyond those of ITU-T.</p>

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	49, 42, 43 (ISCG)	<p>RAG noted the liaison statements provided in RAG/42 and RAG/43 and the report provided in RAG/49 by the inter-sectoral coordination group. RAG thanked Mr. Bigi for the ongoing work of the ISCG.</p> <p>RAG appointed Mr. Andy Quested to be the coordinator from the RAG on the themes of “Accessibility” and “Climate Change”.</p> <p>RAG noted the discussion on the progress of the use of Machine Translation in other Sectors and anticipates its future use by the BR when its capabilities are deemed suitable, taking into account the specificities of the work of the ITU-R. RAG notes that the ISCG maintains mapping Tables of related Resolutions of PP and Sectors in order to avoid duplication of texts. The ISCG further developed mapping Tables of related studies and activities of the 3 sectors and the general secretariat in order to ensure the necessary coordination. RAG endorses these actions. RAG suggested to the BR to make the website of the ISCG and the Mapping Tables more easily accessible from the BR homepage.</p>
13	Date of next meeting	2 nd Quarter 2023.
14	Any other business	

ANNEXES:

ANNEX 1: Statements by Member States

ANNEX 2: Revised Terms of Reference of the RAG Correspondence Group 2 on possible revisions of Resolutions ITU-R 1-8 (RAG CG-2)

ANNEX 3: Activities of the RAG Correspondence Group 1

ANNEX 1

Statements by the Member States

Statement by France on behalf of the European Union

At the outset let me express the EU and its MS' full solidarity with Ukraine and the Ukrainian people. The EU condemns in the strongest possible terms Russia's unprovoked and unjustified act of aggression against Ukraine, which grossly violates international law and the UN Charter, and undermines international security and stability. The EU demands that Russia immediately cease its military actions, withdraw all its troops from the entire territory of Ukraine and fully respect Ukraine's territorial integrity, sovereignty and independence within its internationally recognised borders and abide by UN General Assembly resolution titled "Aggression against Ukraine" supported by 141 states at the 11th emergency special session. The EU resolutely supports Ukraine's inherent right of self-defence and the Ukrainian armed forces' efforts to defend Ukraine's territorial integrity and population in accordance with Article 51 of the UN Charter. At all times Russia must respect its obligations under international law, including international humanitarian and human rights law, including with respect to the protection of civilians, women and children. Russia also needs to stop its disinformation campaign and cyber-attacks

Statement by the United Kingdom

The UK reflects upon:

- the ITU Secretary General's remarks made at the 2022 Session of the Council, for the war in Ukraine to stop, and.
- the statements the UK, and others, made at both WTSA and Council condemning Russia's continued military aggression, as well as its human rights abuses.
- finally, we strongly welcome the ITU's Resolution – "Assistance and Support to Ukraine for Rebuilding their Telecommunication Sector" and the overwhelming majority of support it attracted at Council.

Statement by Canada and the United States of America

Canada and the United States wish to record their support to the statement made by France on behalf of the EU and the statement made by the United Kingdom.

Statement of the Russian Federation

The Russian Federation considers that the political statements made by Canada, France, the United States and the United Kingdom are unacceptable and cannot be discussed in the context of RAG, as they go beyond the group's mandate. In accordance with Article 11A of the ITU Convention, RAG shall review only priorities, programmes, operations, financial matters and strategies related to radiocommunication assemblies, study groups and the preparation of radiocommunication conferences.

ANNEX 2

Revised Terms of Reference of the RAG Correspondence Group 2 on possible revisions of Resolutions ITU-R 1-8 (RAG CG-2)

Introduction

In accordance with §§ A1.4.1 to A1.4.4 of Resolution ITU-R 1-8, Radiocommunication Assembly 2019 in [RA19/84](#) “invited the RAG to identify possible modifications to Resolution ITU-R 1 with respect to approval procedures when a text is relevant to the topics of multiple SGs” and “to review the maximum term of office for Chairmen of Radiocommunication Working Parties”. Based on proposals from the Member States and Sector Members and in consultation with the Study Group Chairmen, the RAG Correspondence Group 2 (RAG CG-2) is invited to provide possible revisions of Resolution ITU-R 1-8 and Resolution ITU-R 15-6 with the following Terms of Reference:

1. Possible revision of Resolution ITU-R 1-8 with respect to Section A2.6.2.1.3:
 1. the adoption and approval procedures when a text is relevant to the topics of multiple SGs and to the circulation of objections received during the approval process;
 2. the need, if any, for revisions to ITU-R working methods for the adoption and approval of recommendations of interest to multiple ITU-R Study Groups;
 3. the need of fixing, if identified, any omissions, and/or contradictions of the existing texts.
2. The Correspondence group is also invited to consider the possibility of transferring the relevant part of Resolution ITU-R 15-6 to Resolution ITU-R 1-8, the appropriateness of establishing maximum term of office for ITU-R Working Party Chairmen, and the deletion of Resolution ITU-R 15-6. And report to the next meeting of RAG to decide on this matter. Taking into account discussions held in RAG 28th and 29th meetings.
3. To develop the necessary course of action to be taken by Working Parties for the agreement of the draft new Report or draft revised Report before being submitted to the Study Groups.

The RAG CG-2 shall commence work at RAG-21 and submit the outcome of its work for consideration by the RAG-23 meeting, taking into account the information provided in Section 3.1.1 of Doc. [RAG20/1-Rev.1](#) (Report To The Twenty-Seventh Meeting of The Radiocommunication Advisory Group – Revision 1 - Director, Radiocommunication Bureau), and any other proposals relevant under the above Terms of Reference submitted to RAG Correspondence Group 2.

The work of the RAG CG-2 should be performed, as much as possible, by correspondence in accordance with § A1.3.2.7 of Resolution ITU-R 1-8.

The Chairman of the RAG Correspondence Group 2 on Possible Revisions of Resolutions ITU-R 1-8 (RAG CG-2) is Amy Sanders (E-mail: asanders@ntia.gov).

The Vice-Chairman of the RAG Correspondence Group 2 on Possible Revisions of Resolutions ITU-R 1-8 (RAG CG-2) is Alexandre Vassiliev (E-mail: alexandre.vassiliev@mail.ru).

The group needs to present its report 45 days prior to the next meeting of RAG in 2023.

Other relevant information for the work of this Correspondence Group will be provided on the RAG webpage.

ANNEX 3

Activities of the RAG Correspondence Group 1

There are no provisions in Article 11 A of the ITU Convention enabling/authorizing RAG to submit a draft Resolution of Gender equality Gender balance in the activities of ITU-R. However, the current working document towards a Preliminary Draft New Resolution on the above subject may be further developed as follows:

1. Prepare a compilation document containing those relevant parts of the corresponding Resolution in WTSA-20 and WTDC-17/WTDC-21;
 2. Include the relevant parts of contributions submitted by Sweden and Canada to the current meeting of RAG;
 3. Update the current working document towards a preliminary draft new Resolution relating to Gender balance / Gender equality; and
 4. Further pursue the activities of the RAG Corresponding Group with a view to be submitted to RAG 2023.
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