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Radiocommunication Bureau (BR)

Circular Letter
CCRR/70

11 August 2023

To Administrations of Member States of the ITU

Subject: **Draft rules of procedure**

As per the schedule for the consideration of draft new and modified Rules of Procedure contained in Document [RRB23-3/1](#), the Bureau prepared draft modified Rules of Procedure on **Resolution 1 (Rev.WRC-97)** that are annexed to this Circular Letter.

In accordance with No. **13.17** of the Radio Regulations, those draft modified Rules of Procedure are made available to administrations for comments before being submitted to the Radio Regulations Board (RRB) pursuant to No. **13.14**. As indicated in No. **13.12A d)** of the Radio Regulations, any comments that you may wish to submit should reach the Bureau not later than **25 September 2023**, in order to be considered at the 94th meeting of the RRB, scheduled for 23-26 October 2023. Comments should be sent by email to rrb@itu.int.

Mario Maniewicz
Director

Annex: 1

Distribution:

- Administrations of Member States of ITU
- Members of the Radio Regulations Board

Annex

Rules concerning

RESOLUTION 1 (REV.WRC-97)

Notification of frequency assignments

1 ~~Terrestrial services~~ General provisions

1.1 In accordance with this Resolution, the Bureau should, in each case of notification or communication of information:

- a) verify that the station is within a territory under the jurisdiction of the notifying administration, and
- b) if that is not the case, verify that a special arrangement has been communicated to the Union.

~~Any action under a) above would lead the Bureau to delicate situations when considering the administration having jurisdiction on a given territory.~~

1.2 Verification of condition a) above shall be performed by the Bureau using the ITU Digitized World Map (IDWM)¹, taking its tolerance into account and consulting the administration(s) concerned when necessary.

1.3 Provisions for processing frequency assignments to stations located on the territory of another administration.

For submission of frequency assignments related to stations located on a territory under the jurisdiction of another administration, the Board noted that ~~t3~~ The consideration of condition b) above may lead to impractical situations because administrations may agree on operating a given system without necessarily going through establishing a formal agreement, and due to the fact that not all agreements between administrations are communicated to the Bureau.

~~Considering that it was not the intention of the Member States to see the Bureau involved in matters relating to disputed territories, Given this situation,~~ the Board decided that in such cases Resolution 1 (Rev.WRC-97) shall be applied as follows:

- Unless advised to the contrary by an administration not accepting such practice, any notification of a frequency assignment to a station located ~~o~~in a territory of an administration other than the notifying administration shall be assumed to be the subject of agreement between the two administrations concerned.
- When, following the publication of a frequency assignment in the BR IFIC or its Special Sections, the administration of the territory on which the station is located objects to it, the notifying administration is requested to ~~communicate~~ verify the existence of any special arrangement with the objecting administration and inform the Bureau accordingly.

¹ Where the IDWM is aligned, as far as practicable, with the United Nations map (UN map) geospatial database coordinated and produced by the UN Geospatial Information Section.

- If, as a result of consultations between the notifying and objecting administrations, the latter removes its objections following the replies received from the notifying administration, the Bureau, the frequency notice is considered as receivable and processed is of the opinion that the sovereignty over the territory in question is a matter of dispute between the two administrations and it is informed that the station is actually operated by the notifying administration, the Bureau will record the assignment and will enter a symbol to indicate the situation. Otherwise, the notice will be returned to the notifying administration.

1.4 Provisions for processing frequency notices to stations located on a territory with sovereignty unsettled.

The territories with sovereignty unsettled, to which this section of the Rule of Procedure applies, are listed in the Preface to the BR IFIC for terrestrial and space services and designated by the symbol "XZX", indicating that the administrative status of such geographic areas is under disagreement.

The Bureau shall consult all administrations claiming a territory with sovereignty unsettled whether they agree that submissions under Article 9, Article 11 or a Plan modification procedure from all these administrations may be processed by the Bureau. If all the administrations affirm that each of them can notify stations located on this territory, the notices shall be processed based on the applicable provisions of the Radio Regulations, Regional Agreements and the Rules of Procedure.

If at least one administration disagrees, the Bureau shall process notices received in the application of Article 9, Article 11 or a Plan modification procedure from the administrations that claim the territory as follows:

- The publication of such assignments shall be made with the symbol of the Notifying Administration "XZX" that designates a special status of the territory, and with the symbol of the Geographical Area, where the station is located.
- The symbol of the administration submitting the notice, a reference to Resolution 1 (Rev.WRC-97) and the following Note shall be included in the Remarks field: "The station to which this frequency assignment refers to is located on a territory with sovereignty unsettled, based on the ITU Digitized World Map (IDWM). The recording of this frequency assignment in the Master Register or in any Plan associated with an ITU Regional Agreement does not imply any recognition of sovereignty over this territory and does not imply the expression of any opinion whatsoever on the part of the ITU or its secretariat in that respect."

A coordination, notification or Plan modification procedure for a frequency assignment to a station located on a territory with sovereignty unsettled shall be applied by the administration submitting the notice.

When a submitted frequency assignment to a station, which is located on any territory, is identified as affecting frequency assignments on a territory with sovereignty unsettled, the administration submitting the assignment shall obtain agreements from all administrations claiming that territory.

If an objection to a request for coordination under Article 9 is received from another administration claiming a territory with sovereignty unsettled, and the objection is based on frequency assignments to stations located on this territory, and agreement is not obtained, the frequency assignments shall be recorded under No. 11.31.1 for coordination under No. 9.21 or under No.11.41 for other coordination cases of Article 9, with respect to the services or frequency assignments of that objecting administration, respectively. Other types of objections are recorded for information only.

If an objection to a submission under a Plan modification procedure is received from another administration claiming the territory with sovereignty unsettled and agreement is not obtained, the submission shall be processed in accordance with the provisions of the Radio Regulations related to Plans, relevant Regional Agreement and the Rules of Procedure.

If there are difficulties in communication between administrations, then the Bureau could be requested to provide assistance to those administrations.

If all the administrations claiming a territory with sovereignty unsettled agree on another arrangement for notifying frequency assignments to stations on the territory and inform the ITU thereof, the Bureau should treat notifications according to this agreed arrangement, when it is in conformity with the Radio Regulations, relevant Regional Agreement and the Rules of Procedure.

2 Provisions specific to space services

2.1 The notification of terrestrial international links contains the indication of the receiving station located in the territory of another administration assuming that there is an agreement about establishing the radio link. In the case of space radiocommunications, the notification and registration procedures of Article 11 of a given frequency assignment are applied separately by the administration operating the transmitting part and by the administration using the receiving part.

2.2 When the Bureau receives from an Administration A a notice for a transmitting space station with a service area covering the territory of an Administration B, it assumes that the latter has given its agreement to be included in the service area of the corresponding satellite network and the transmission will be protected over its territory.

2.3 Similarly, when an administration notifies a transmitting or a receiving earth station the Bureau assumes that the proposed use will be made with the agreement of the administration responsible ~~of~~ for the associated space station ~~and the comments in § 1 above apply.~~

2.4 As far as the request for exclusion of the territory of a country from the service area of a space station, see comments under the Rules of Procedure concerning No. 9.50.

3 Requirements for Planning Conferences

NOC

***Reasons:** The proposed modifications to these Rules of Procedure (RoP) on Resolution 1 (Rev.WRC-97) aim to clarify the application of the procedures of coordination and notification of frequency assignments to radio stations located on the territories outside of the jurisdiction of the notifying administration. The main modifications to the RoP consist of the following:*

- a) a formal reference in the Rules of Procedure to the ITU Digitized World map (IDWM) as the tool for verification of locations of radio stations and the conditions of Resolution 1 (provision 1.2 of the RoP);*
- b) clarification of the existing text of the RoP dealing with the notification of stations on the territory of another administration, assuming the existence of agreements between them (provision 1.3);*
- c) introduction of new provisions for processing frequency notices for radio stations located on a territory with sovereignty unsettled including the introduction of the new symbol "XZX" for Notifying Administration (provision 1.4);*

- d) clarification of some provisions of the current RoP that are specific to space services (section 2).

With respect to a) above, the Bureau has been using the IDWM for verification of locations of radio stations and conditions of Resolution 1 (**Rev.WRC-97**) since the late 1980s. Since the resolution of IDWM is relatively low, leading to a geographical uncertainty up to 10 km, the Bureau has pursued an approach to make alignment of the IDWM borders with the UN geospatial database (UN map) which has a resolution of 1:1 000 000. In addition, the UN map is maintained and regularly updated by the UN Geospatial Information Section based on the decisions of UN General Assembly and Security Council and these updates to the UN map occur more often than updates to the IDWM. The UN map also serves as a reference geographical database, including the status of geographical territories, for all UN departments and specialized agencies.

Some differences exist between the UN map and the IDWM due to historical reasons. As an example, over the years a number of small islands under jurisdiction of the responsible country, have been added to the IDWM as a result of notification of radio stations located on these islands, which are absent in the UN map. Furthermore, some geographical areas, which are designated in the UN map as territories with sovereignty unsettled, do not have such status in the IDWM due to the decisions of ITU regional radiocommunication conferences that accepted radio stations in such territories from specific administrations.

Due to the above reasons and given that the IDWM represents a practical tool for the application of the Radio Regulations and Regional Agreements to radiocommunication services and not a geopolitical map of the world, some difference between the IDWM with UN remains. This explains Note 1 in the RoP stating that the IDWM is aligned with the UN map as far as practicable to take account of these historical differences.

With respect to b) above, some clarifications to this part of the RoP have been introduced, while keeping the main principle that frequency assignments to stations on a territory of an administration other than the notifying administration are treated assuming an agreement between these two administrations. In addition, the procedure of processing filings for the stations located on a territory of another administration has been separated from the procedure of processing filings for the stations located on a territory with sovereignty unsettled.

With respect to bullet point c) above, provisions for coordination and processing frequency notices for radio stations located on a territory with sovereignty unsettled have been introduced. They include consultations with the administrations concerned and describe how frequency assignments to such radio stations can be recorded in the MIFR or a Plan, while ensuring that their recording does not imply recognition of the sovereignty of the notifying administration over a territory. This approach includes the introduction of a special symbol of notifying administration "XZX", a reference to Resolution 1 (**Rev.WRC-97**) and the relevant note. The list of the territories with sovereignty unsettled will be maintained by BR and be included in the Preface to BRIFIC, based on the information available in the UN map.

The new provisions are introduced bearing in mind the importance of recording of frequency assignments to stations operated everywhere, including on territories with sovereignty unsettled. This is necessary to reflect the actual usage of the spectrum in such areas and provide the information about possible sources of interference. The introduction of the new provisions in item 1.4 would allow the Bureau to process a number of frequency assignments to stations located on territories with sovereignty unsettled so far kept in abeyance.

In addition, new section 1.4 specifies the obligation of an administration submitting a frequency assignment that affects frequency assignments on a territory with sovereignty unsettled to obtain agreements from all administrations claiming that territory. Section 1.4 also describes the treatment of objections from other administrations claiming such a territory. Only objections based on the particulars of the potential interference would have bearing on the findings of the coordinated assignments.

With respect to bullet point d) above, some modifications of an explanatory nature have been made.

The Bureau intends to apply the modifications to these Rules of Procedure to the frequency assignments kept in abeyance as mentioned above and the future assignments received after the effective date of application of the RoP only. No revision of finding is foreseen for recorded assignments.

Effective date of application of the Rule: immediately after approval.
