

African Telecommunications Union

INFORMATION DOCUMENT ON WRC-15 PREPARATIONS TO THE 1ST ITU INTER-REGIONAL WORKSHOP ON WRC-15 PREPARATIONS

1 Introduction

This information document provides a summary of the status of the ATU region's WRC-15 preparations as part of the general information for the 1st ITU Inter-regional Workshop for WRC-15 preparations (4 – 5 December 2013, Geneva – Switzerland). The document only addresses general preparatory arrangements that have been undertaken or planned to be undertaken as of November 2013 on the understanding that the preliminary views on actual WRC-15 agenda items would be provided by the ATU Chapter Coordinators during the sessions of the Workshop. Further details of the elements herein such as reports of meetings and planned activities can be accessed on ATU website www.atu-uat.org

2 Organizational Arrangements

Organizational arrangements for regional WRC-15 preparations include ATU WRC-15 preparatory meetings (1 has taken place with up to 4 more planned); the newly established African Spectrum Working Group (AfriSWoG), and the ATU WRC-15 Chapter Coordinators.

3 Meetings

3.1 ATU WRC-15 Preparatory Meetings

The following meetings have or planned to be held:

- **Held:** The region held its 1st WRC-15 preparatory meeting in Dakar – Senegal from 18 – 20 March 2013. The main outcomes of this meeting included; (1) Adoption of the WRC-15 strategy, (2) Adoption of the AfriSWoG framework, and (3) A compilation of preliminary views from sub-regions, administrations and relevant organizations.
- **Planned:** The region plans to hold two preparatory meetings in 2014: the first being in Khartoum – Sudan from 27 – 31 January 2014 and the second in Abuja – Nigeria from 1 – 5 December 2014. The region plans to hold a final preparatory meeting at an appropriate time in 2015. The main objective of these meeting is the formulation of African common positions on various WRC-15 agenda items. However, the meetings are also aimed at addressing other regional spectrum related issues.

3.2 AfriSWoG Meetings

AfriSWoG held its 1st meeting (AfriSWoG-1) from 12 – 14 November 2013 in Nairobi – Kenya. AfriSWoG-1 was highly successful with the following as the main outcomes:

- Adoption of Working methods including the working structure
- Establishment of AfriSWoG Management Team for the period between now and end of WRC-15;
- Establishment of a Correspondence Group on OoBE studies under AI 1.2;
- Establishment of preliminary recommendations on the identified key agenda items/issues for submission to the Sudan ATU WRC-15 preparatory meeting.
- Adoption of three templates: (1) Template for requesting a study, (2) Template for input contribution for work of AfriSWoG, and (3) Template for Proposals for ATU WRC-15 Common Views and-or Positions;
- Adoption of studies on Digital Sound Broadcasting and possible optimisation of the GE84 FM sound broadcasting Plan for approval consideration by the Sudan meeting;
- Establishment of modalities of African regional participation at the ITU WRC-15 prep workshop via the Chapter Coordinators;

The AfriSWoG Management Team is formulating a work plan which will outline the next meetings and other activities of the group.

3.3 Sub-regional Meetings

The sub-regions held at least one meeting for their respective sub-regional WRC-15 preparations. It is foreseen that more meetings will be held as part of their preparations for ATU as well as ITU WRC-15 preparatory meetings and other activities.

4 General status of work on agenda items

Thus far, work on WRC-15 agenda items 1.2 has reached an advanced stage with some appreciable debate also taking place regarding AI 1.1. The region will now focus on other agenda items in order to advance them as well taking due advantage of the conclusions within the various study groups. Until now, the region focused on agenda item 1.2 in particular the related GE06 Plan modification and coordination exercise which took considerable amount of time and effort to conclude.

5 Conclusion

Having have created the organizational framework notably the WRC-15 strategy and AfriSWoG, and noting the advancement of work on Agenda Item 1.2 including the related completion of the GE06 Plan modification and coordination exercise (thanks to the assistance by the ITU BR), the region will now focus on other agenda items in order to advance them as well. It is hoped that the region will be fully prepared before the commencement of WRC-15 in order to fully and actively participate thereby contributing to yet another fruitful WRC.
