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| **Radiocommunication Advisory Group Geneva, 22-24 May 2013** |  |
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|  | **Document RAG13-1/13-E** |
| **2 May 2013** |
| **Original: English** |
| Chairman of the Correspondence Group  on the ITU-R Strategic Plan | |
| Draft report of the rag correspondence group on itu‑r strategic plan | |

At its 18th Meeting, in 2011, RAG established a Correspondence Group on ITU-R Strategic Plan.

The Chairman, Vice-Chairmen and the Director of the Bureau, through joint meetings prepared the first draft together with an associated course of action on how to study the matter.

The outcome of this meeting was posted on the RAG share point for comments.

A reminder was sent by the Chairman to recall that comments were expected in order to enable the Chairman and Vice-Chairmen to prepare a progress report for the 19th RAG Meeting in June 2012.

Except one Administration (the United States of America) no other comments were received.

At its 19th Meeting, in 2012, RAG concluded that, in spite of the low level of participation in the CG so far, the work of the CG should continue, and the RAG encouraged membership to contribute. RAG also concluded that a face-to-face meeting of RAG participants (without interpretation) should be held in conjunction with the next session of the RAG in 2013 to discuss issues related to the ITU‑R Strategic Plan.

Since then, no additional comments have been received. The draft Report of the RAG correspondence group is given in Annex 1. If any additional comment/contribution on this issue is received prior to the 20th RAG Meeting, an update of this draft report will be provided.

It is assumed that the traditional course of action for the preparation of the Draft Strategic Plan will be followed for the period 2016-2019, i.e. to convene a Working Group of the ITU Council to be established after its session in 2013 and to report to its session in 2014. The RAG may therefore consider forwarding its conclusions on this issue to the Council, for its consideration, as foreseen in *Invites Sector Members* of Resolution 71 (Rev. Guadalajara, 2010).

**Annexes**: 4

**ANNEX 1**

**Strategic objectives and activities of the ITU-R**

1. **Strategic objectives**

Section 4.4 of the Annex to Resolution 71 (Rev. Guadalajara, 2010) set forth the **strategic goal** of the ITU-R, as three-fold. These should be called **strategic objectives** and it is proposed, as a minimum, to amend them as follows, in order to avoid mixing the objectives and the means to reach them:

1. To ensure interference-free operations of radiocommunication systems
2. To establish worldwide standards and associated materials to ensure the necessary required performance , interoperability and quality for operating radiocommunication systems
3. To seek ways and means to ensure the rational, equitable, efficient and economical use of the radio-frequency spectrum and satellite-orbit resources and to promote flexibility for future expansion and new technological developments.

There may be a need to amend these objectives once a satisfactory description of the activities of the ITU-R has been found.

Also, there would be a need for these objectives to reflect conflicting requirements such as:

* To satisfy spectrum requirements for new services and applications
* To protect existing services,
* To introduce more flexibility,
* To achieve, where appropriate, harmonisation of the use of spectrum in order to achieve economies of scale and global roaming.

1. **Activities**

Section 4.5 of Annex 1 to Resolution 71 (Rev. Guadalajara, 2010) groups the activities of the ITU-R in five processes, which are aimed at achieving these objectives:

1. Coordinating
2. Processing
3. Producing
4. Informing
5. Assisting

There are several difficulties with the above list of objectives. In particular, in Table 4.2, the description of expected results and key indicators shows, for every process, what relates to the BR and not the ITU-R.

* Objective 1 (Coordinating) is intended to group the activities leading to decision making in the Sector, as confirmed by Table 4.1, where the outputs of ITU-R are WRC, RRC, RA, RAG and RRB, which could be considered as output of ITU-R activities.
* Objective 2 (Processing) clearly relates only to the BR activity, not the ITU-R, as confirmed by Table 2
* Objective 3 (Produce) for which the output is “Study groups, working parties, task and joint groups, conference preparatory meetings”, which cannot be an output of the ITU-R.
* Objective 4 (Informing) for which the output is ITU-R publications, which are only the tangible output of Process 3 (Producing).
* Objective 5 (Assisting) for which the output is assistance, including seminars, workshop, capacity building.

One possible way to resolve these difficulties and to be more consistent with the terminology used in todays’ management concepts would be to associate the above objectives with processes, which could be as followed:

1. Proposed Process 1 (Associated to Objective 1): Establish and update international regulations on spectrum use
   * Output of this process is the Final Acts of WRCs and RRCs, updated Radio Regulations, Rules of procedure of the RRB
   * Input is proposals from administrations, reports from the Director, BR
   * Activities are: preparatory activities by administrations and regional groups, WRC and RRC discussions, RRB activities and BR activities in support of all this.
2. Proposed Process 2 (Associated to Objective 2): Apply international regulations on spectrum use
   * Outputs are updated MIFR and Plans by recording/suppression/modifications of assignments/allotments in the MIFR/relevant Plans and associated publications (BRIFIC, Lists of Maritime publications,
   * Inputs are the notices from administrations on intended use of spectrum
   * Activities are the actions taken by the BR in administering the procedures of the RR and regional Agreements, the activities of the RRB other than the adoption of RoPs, the actions taken by the administrations and operators in coordinating frequencies and exchanging information with the BR, and the BR supports for l these works.
3. Proposed Process 3 (Associated to Objective 3): Produce global standards, recommendations, reports and Handbooks for optimum use of spectrum and its associated works
   * Outputs are recommendations, reports (including the CPM report) and handbooks
   * Inputs are contributions by the ITU-R membership
   * Activities are the technical, operational and regulatory studies within the ITU-R study groups, SCRPM and CPM, as well as the BR activities in support of these tasks
4. Proposed Process 4 (associated to Objectives 4 and 5): Inform and assisting membership in radiocommunication matters

The activities relating to informing from those relating to assisting administrations may be difficult to separate. Therefore, these activities have been combined into one process intended to fulfill objectives 4 and 5.

* + Output are actions of disseminating information and rendering assistance, including participation of the BR and membership in seminars, conferences, workshops and other events,
  + Inputs are requests for assistance from membership, request for fellowship for participation in conferences and meetings, Activities are the preparation of material for presentations, tutorials, and all other associated activities by membership and BR relating to the preparation and the holding of workshops, events, conferences and seminars.

The activities of the CVC, RAG and RA are part of the process of piloting the ITU-R, not part of the production/realization process.

The attached figures summarize the proposed description of ITU-R processes and associated activities.









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***REQUESTS FOR***

***INFORMATION/ASSISTANCE***

***Deliverables : events, workshops, seminars***

***Development of presentations, tutorial material for***

***information and capacity***

***building***

**ANNEX 2**

**Note from the Chairman of the Correspondence Group on the ITU-R Strategic Plan**

Dear Members /Interested Persons in the RAG Correspondence Group on ITU-R Strategic Plan

Now that WRC-12 has ended its activities ,we need to come back to our normal activates including comments on the first draft that I have sent you /posted on the share points many months ago.

I have not received any feedback so far.

In order to enable me to prepare the first draft Report on the activities of Correspondence Group to the forthcoming RAG Meeting, I would be very much appreciated if you could kindly provide your views, within as soon as possible and not later than 15 May 2012.

Awaiting to receive your comments, I wish you all the best

Regards

K.Arasteh

**ANNEX 3**

Covering Message

Dear Members of the RAG Correspondence Group On ITU-R Strategic Plan

1 First of all, I hope that you have had a pleasant summer holiday and are ready to take up the extensive activities before all of us for this year and for the coming years.

2 The review of the ITU-R Strategic Plan as annexed to Resolution 71(Rev. Guadalajara, 2010) is among these activities.

3 At its eighteenth meeting, 8-10 June 2011, under 8.3 of its Summary of Conclusion, RAG agreed to establish a Correspondence Group on the ITU-R Strategic Plan with the terms of reference as contained in Annex 4. Which is reproduced below for easy reference.

Quote:

***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*](mailto:kavouss.arasteh@ties.itu.int)*), assisted by Ms Veena Rawat, Canada  
(e-mail:* [*verawat@rim.com*](mailto:verawat@rim.com)*).*

*Sharepoint site: Available on the RAG website at* [*http://www.itu.int/ITU-R/go/RAG.*Unquote](http://www.itu.int/ITU-R/go/RAG.Unquote)

*4 Initial course of action already taken.*

*4.1 During June and July 2011, I held several meetings with the Director Radiocommunication Bureau in order to take necessary initial steps to activate the above-mentioned Correspondence Group.*

*4.2 On 23 August 2011, another meeting was held in Geneva in the office of the Director of the Radiocommunication Bureau in which Dr. Veena Rawat, the Vice Chairman of the Group in order to begin with the work and to activate the correspondence group as established by the RAG.*

*4.3 In this connection, we have reviewed the input documents to RAG 2011 and the terms of reference of the Group.*

*4.4 It was confirmed that the main objectives of the Correspondence Group is to provide further clarity to the ITU-R Strategic Plan as contained in the Annex to Resolution 71(Rev. Guadalajara 2010 with a view to be properly understood by the membership and implemented by the Bureau. In fact there was intention to formally modify the above-mentioned Plan as approved by PP-10 rather to further elaborate the activities and processes associated with the Goals and the Objectives mentioned in that Plan, taking into account the needs and reasons for such clarifications as contained in the RAG’s input documents and the debates held during the RAG’s meeting.*

*4.5 Consequently, the attached draft to be considered as an supplementary document for use by the Radiocommunication Bureau when implementing the relevant parts of that Strategic Plan. In other words, the Initial Plan is preserved without any modification but for its implementation the attached draft ( which will be further elaborated and improved in the coming months) would be used by the Bureau to properly and efficiently implement the above-mentioned Plan*

*5 In the light of the foregoing, it was agreed that the assigned tasks, while preserving the initial Strategic Plan to be carried out in two steps*

*5.1 Step 1*

*5.1.1 to review the ITU-R Strategic Plan for the period 2012-2015 and provide the required clarification with a view that the above-mentioned Plan be properly understood by membership and efficiently implemented by the Bureau;*

*5.1.2 to report on the matter to the nineteenth meeting of Radiocommunication Advisory Group in 2012;*

*5.1.2 Should RAG at its 2012 meeting agreed to the draft supplementary document, it may advise the Director to implement the ITU-R Strategic Plan using the above-mentioned approved supplement;*

*5.2 Step 2*

*5.2.1 Depending on the conclusion of the RAG at its 2012 meeting, to make an in-depth review and examine various ways and means on how to further improve the methodology, structure, presentation, and associated mapping Tables with a view to prepare the preliminary draft of ITU-R Strategic Plan for the period 2016-2019;*

*5.2.2 to submit the framework of that preliminary Draft to the 20th meeting of Radiocommunication Advisory Group in 2013;*

*5..3 Further actions*

*5.3.1 to consider providing advice to the Director, with the consent of the Secretary General the matter be reported to Council Session in 2013 with a view that Council establishes the traditional Council Working Group for the preparation of the Strategic Plan of the Union for the period 2016-2019 in 2013.*

*5.3.2 Should that suggestion be agreed by the Council ,the improved methodology, structure, presentation, and associated mapping mentioned in paragraph 5.2.1 above be considered by other ITU Sectors and their Advisory Groups with a view that a harmonized improved methodology, structure, presentation, and associated mapping, be studied and adopted, where appropriate.*

*6. A preliminary draft supplement to the ITU-R Strategic Plan mentioned in Paragraphs 5 .1.1 above is attached to this message for consideration and comments by membership interested in the matter.*

*7 Participants and interested members on the matter are kindly requested to examine the above-mentioned preliminary draft and provide their comments through the established e-mail reflector/ share point, as soon as possible and not later than DD/MM/2011[ 31 October 2011].*

*8 Upon receipt of comment, the preliminary Draft referred to above would be amended, as appropriate and circulated for further and final comment.*

**ANNEX 4**

**United States of America**

Views on Proposed Modifications to the Strategic Plan of the ITU-R

# Introduction

The Correspondence Group on the ITU-R Strategic Plan was established by 18th meeting of the RAG. Its terms of reference as laid out in Circular-letter CA/199 (Annex 4) call for it to “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.”[[1]](#footnote-1)

The CG is to “to report on the matter to the nineteenth meeting of Radiocommunication Advisory Group in 2012. Should RAG at its 2012 meeting agreed to the draft supplementary document, it may advise the Director to implement the ITU-R Strategic Plan using the above-mentioned approved supplement.”[[2]](#footnote-2)

1. **Discussion**

The following revisions have been proposed in “Activities of the ITU-R V2” to the RAG Correspondence Group on the ITU-R Strategic Plan:

1. “To ensure interference-free operations of radiocommunication systems
2. To establish global standards and associated materials to ensure the necessary required performance , interoperability and quality for operating radiocommunication systems”[[3]](#footnote-3)

The United States questions whether the proposed revisions provide an improvement over the existing text. The existing text explains exactly what the ITU-R does, i.e. implementing the Radio Regulations, establishing Recommendations. The proposed revisions make the work of the ITU-R more ambiguous.

In the first goal, how exactly would the ITU-R ‘ensure interference free operations’ if not through the implementation of the Radio Regulations? Are new mechanisms to ensure interference operation being suggested or implied?

In the second goal, there are numerous cases where the ITU-R recommends standards developed by external Standards Development Organizations (SDOs). To say that the ITU-R ‘establishes’ standards would frequently confuse the work of the ITU-R with the work of those SDOs. Further in the second goal, the United States has concerns with the addition of the word “required”, since in most cases ITU Recommendations do not establish requirements.

Finally in the second goal, the United States is concerned with the addition of “interoperability”. ITU-R Recommendations are of a voluntary nature and in most cases do not provide system specifications or their associated test suites that would be required to ensure interoperability.

As can be seen from this discussion, the proposed revisions could potentially create a host of problems; while the original text as approved in Resolution 71 at Plenipot-10 do not have those problems.

**Proposal**

The United States endorses the Strategic Plan of the ITU-R as approved in Resolution 71 at Plenipot-10 and would not support the revisions proposed in “Activities of the ITU-R V2” to the Correspondence Group.

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1. Circular-letter CA/199 (Annex 4) [↑](#footnote-ref-1)
2. “RAG\_Coresspondence\_Group\_On\_SP.docx, Rev.1”. Input from the CG Chairman – CG terms of reference and work program. <https://extranet.itu.int/itu-r/conferences/rag/cg_itu_r_stategic_plan/SitePages/Home.aspx> [↑](#footnote-ref-2)
3. “Activities of the ITU-R V2”. <https://extranet.itu.int/itu-r/conferences/rag/cg_itu_r_stategic_plan/SitePages/Home.aspx> [↑](#footnote-ref-3)