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| **World Radiocommunication Conference (WRC-15) Geneva, 2-27 November 2015** |  |
| **INTERNATIONAL TELECOMMUNICATION UNION** |  |
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| **PLENARY MEETING** | **Document 6-E** |
| **15 October 2015** |
| **Original: English** |
| United States of America | |
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The United States celebrates the 150th anniversary of the International Telecommunication Union (ITU), an institution that continues to play a vital role in international telecommunications. The ITU’s goal of expanding access to telecommunications mirrors the commitment in the U.S. telecommunications law to “make available, so far as possible, to all the people of the United States . . . a rapid, efficient, Nation-wide, and world-wide wire and radio communication service.”

Global solutions for allocating spectrum enable economies of scale, drive down prices, and facilitate interoperability. The ITU Radiocommunication Sector plays a unique role in the global management of the radio frequency spectrum, including uses from space. It is the sole body that brings the required expertise to bear with treaty force.

The decisions taken at the 2015 World Radiocommunication Conference (WRC-15) will have global implications for economic growth and development. The United States believes that positive outcomes at this conference are essential for facilitating critical spectrum management policy objectives, including advanced communications capabilities, technology innovation, economic growth, and national security. We are committed to advancing spectrum-sharing opportunities where feasible, and to protecting existing services where sharing is not feasible.

From the U.S. perspective, the most critical priorities facing the conference are acquiring more spectrum for mobile broadband; paving the way for the operation of innovative Unmanned Aircraft Systems (UAS); establishing a mechanism for Global Flight Tracking; and adopting an agenda for WRC-19 that enables continued wireless innovation. We have joined with other members of the Inter-American Telecommunication Commission in supporting Inter-American Proposals for all these issues. All of these priorities are motivated by pressing needs; and ITU Member States must act effectively to meet these needs. To do otherwise would strand billion dollar industries without globally harmonized spectrum and regulatory regimes.

Allocating additional spectrum to the mobile service on a primary basis and identification of additional frequency bands for International Mobile Telecommunications (IMT) under WRC-15 agenda item 1.1 is a high priority for the United States and most countries because it will enable the development of terrestrial mobile broadband applications. The United States supports introduction of broadband in three frequency bands: 470-698 MHz; 1 427-1 518 MHz; and, in the Americas, 3 400-3 700 MHz. Although the United States only plans to implement mobile broadband in parts of the 470-698 MHz and 3 400-3 700 MHz bands, we support giving other countries the flexibility to choose which parts of these bands to implement, if any. In order to preserve existing operations in other frequency ranges, the United States supports “no change” proposals for these frequencies.

The emergence of medium to large UAS for civil and commercial applications is among the most significant aviation advancements in decades. Applications for such UAS include search and rescue, weather forecasting, firefighting, disaster response, precision farming, aerial photography, delivery of materials, and infrastructure and border monitoring, to name a few. The potential for this industry to contribute to the economic growth and wellbeing of developed and developing countries alike is tremendous.

The operation of UAS outside segregated airspace requires addressing the same issues as manned aircraft, namely safe and efficient integration into the air traffic control system. WRC-15 has only two choices for agenda item 1.5: use the available fixed-satellite service or do nothing. It is critical that WRC-15 adopt spectrum and regulatory provisions to enable command and control of UAS and safely extend the benefits of this new telecommunication technology to all the world’s inhabitants.

We must also take action on the issue of Global Flight Tracking and respond to the urgent tasking from the 2014 Plenipotentiary Conference. The United States has joined with nearly twenty countries in the Americas to support a two-pronged approach: (1) the addition of a primary aeronautical mobile-satellite (R) service (AMS(R)S) allocation in the frequency band 1 087.7-1 092.3 MHz to facilitate satellite reception of existing Automatic Dependent Surveillance – Broadcast (ADS-B) transmissions as a possible constituent element of GFT; and (2) the addition of an item to the 2019 WRC agenda to address other requirements related to Global Aeronautical Distress and Safety System (GADSS).

The conference will also consider two agenda items affecting satellite networks that are of particular importance to the United States. We undertook extensive analysis of possible options to enable additional primary allocations to the fixed-satellite service (FSS) within the range 13‑17 GHz under agenda item 1.6, and concluded that sharing is not feasible. The United States and other administrations operate aeronautical mobile systems that perform critical public service missions, including air-traffic control operations, humanitarian, and security assistance in this range and particularly rely on access to 14.5-14.8 GHz. The United States could accept the 250 MHz allocation in the band 13.4-13.75 MHz for a downlink in ITU Region 1 if it is proposed, but otherwise supports “no change” in order to protect incumbent systems.

The United States also supports effective changes to the satellite registration process that increase clarity and transparency, reduce administrative burdens, and provide the information to the Radiocommunication Bureau necessary for maintaining the Master International Frequency Register. Our primary goal for agenda item 7 is to preserve a stable satellite registration process that benefits satellite operators globally, for newly launched as well as deployed satellite systems, and presents minimal constraints or burdens for satellite network management while respecting the rights of Administrations.

With respect to the agenda for the WRC-19, the United States identifies the following four priority items that will support continued innovation in the wireless industry, help bring mobile broadband to underserved areas, and address aviation requirements:

– Supporting the evolution of 5G mobile wireless by studying spectrum above 6 GHz, particularly within the frequency ranges 27.5-29.5 GHz, 37.0-40.5 GHz, 47.2-50.2 GHz, 50.4-52.6 GHz, and 59.3-71 GHz.

– Considering a primary allocation to the mobile service in the band 5 350-5 470 MHz and identification for Wireless Access Systems, including Radio Local Area Networks (RLANs).

– Expanding broadband to developing countries utilizing solar planes operating at a fixed point at an altitude of 20 km by identifying at least 2 GHz of spectrum already allocated to the fixed service for this purpose.

– Addressing the evolving ICAO requirements for the Global Aeronautical Distress and Safety System.

The United States looks forward to working with colleagues toward consensus-based solutions to address the issues at WRC-15 and to adopt an agenda for WRC-19 that responds to the urgent needs of the global community and demonstrates the ITU’s ability to address rapid technological advances.

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