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| **World Radiocommunication Conference (WRC-15) Geneva, 2–27 November 2015** | |  |
| **INTERNATIONAL TELECOMMUNICATION UNION** | |  |
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| PLENARY MEETING | **Addendum 7 to Document 7(Add.23)(Add.1)-E** | | |
|  | **29 September 2015** | |
|  | **Original: English** | |
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| Member States of the Inter-American Telecommunication Commission (CITEL) | | |
| Proposals for the work of the conference | | |
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| Agenda item 9.1(9.1.7) | | |

9 to consider and approve the Report of the Director of the Radiocommunication Bureau, in accordance with Article 7 of the Convention:

9.1 on the activities of the Radiocommunication Sector since WRC‑12;

9.1 (9.1.7) Resolution **647 (Rev. WRC-12)** − Spectrum management guidelines for emergency and disaster relief radiocommunication

Background

Resolution 647 (Rev. WRC-12) deals with emergency and disaster relief radiocommunications. Studies with respect to this issue were identified by CPM15-1 as issue 9.1.7 under agenda item 9.1. The Director of the Radiocommunication Bureau (BR) is expected to report on the studies and the progress of this Resolution at WRC-15.

The Director’s report may address the following issues, among others, from the resolution:

– resolves to encourage administrations to communicate to the BR, as soon as possible, the frequencies available for use in emergency and disaster relief and reiterate to administrations the importance of having frequencies available for use in the very early stages of humanitarian assistance intervention for disaster relief; and,

– invites ITU-R to conduct studies as necessary, and as a matter of urgency, in support of the establishment of appropriate spectrum management guidelines applicable in emergency and disaster relief operations.

ITU-R Working Party 1B carried out studies in accordance with Resolution 647(Rev.WRC-12). During this study period, the issue of spectrum management guidelines for emergency and disaster relief radiocommunication was reviewed.

According to the contributions from administrations and organizations as well as the liaison statements from other Working Parties, WP 1B developed three options of regulatory and procedural considerations to satisfy this issue. The three options are:

– Option A: modification to Resolution 647 (Rev.WRC-12) and consequential suppression of Resolution 644 (Rev. WRC-12);

– Option B: modification of Resolution 647 (Rev.WRC-12) only;

– Option C: suppression of Resolution 647 (Rev. WRC-12) and the consequential modification of Resolution 644 (Rev.WRC-12);

Proposals

Noting that Resolution 647 (Rev.WRC-12) is used within and outside ITU-R (e.g. ITU-R website, UN specialized agencies on emergency and disaster relief) and contains elements which are still relevant, Resolution 647 (Rev.WRC-12) should be retained and updated. In reviewing Resolutions related to emergency and disaster relief, similarities were noted between Resolution 644 (Rev.WRC-12) and 647 (Rev.WRC-12) and therefore there may be an opportunity to combine them. This may also help to avoid any duplication or overlap in studies. The suggested approach for consolidation is to incorporate the required elements from Resolution 644 (Rev.WRC-12) into an updated Resolution 647 (Rev.WRC-12).

MOD IAP/7A23A1A7/1

RESOLUTION 647 (Rev.WRC‑12)

Radiocommunication resources and spectrum management guidelines for early warning, mitigation and relief operations relating to   
emergency and disaster relief[[1]](#footnote-1)1

The World Radiocommunication Conference (Geneva, 2015),

considering

*a)* that natural disasters have underscored the importance of utilizing effective measures to mitigate their effects, including prediction, detection and alerting through the coordinated and effective use of radio-frequency spectrum;

*b)* ITU’s comprehensive role in emergency communications, not only in the field of radiocommunications, but also in the area of technical standards to facilitate interconnection and interoperability of networks for monitoring and management at the onset of and during emergency and disaster situations, and as an integral part of the telecommunication development agenda through the Hyderabad Action Plan;

*c)* that administrations have been urged to take all practical steps to facilitate the rapid deployment and effective use of telecommunication resources for early warning, emergency, disaster mitigation and relief operations by reducing and, where possible, removing regulatory barriers and strengthening global, regional and transborder cooperation between States;

*d)* that effective use of telecommunications/information and communication technologies (ICTs), at the onset of and during critical emergencies, are essential for disaster forecasting and prediction, timely detection, early-warning, mitigation, management, and relief strategies and operations play a vital role in the safety and security of relief workers in the field;

*e)* the particular needs of developing countries and the special requirements of the inhabitants living in high risk areas exposed to disasters, as well as those living in remote areas;

*f)* the work carried out by the Telecommunication Standardization Sector in standardizing the common alerting protocol (CAP), through the approval of the relevant CAP Recommendation,

recognizing

*a)* that the Tampere Convention on the Provision of Telecommunications Resources for Disaster Mitigation and Relief Operations (Tampere, 1998)[[2]](#footnote-2)2, an international treaty deposited with the United Nations Secretary‑General, calls on the States Parties, when possible, and in conformity with their national law, to develop and implement measures to facilitate the availability of telecommunication resources for such operations;

*b)* Article 40 of the Constitution, on priority of telecommunications concerning safety of life;

*c)* Article 46 of the Constitution, on distress calls and messages;

*d)* Resolution 34 (Rev. Hyderabad, 2010) of the World Telecommunication Development Conference, on the role of telecommunications/ICTs in disaster preparedness, early warning, rescue, mitigation, relief and response, as well as ITU‑D Question 22‑1/2 “Utilization of telecommunications/ICT for disaster preparedness, mitigation and response”;

*e)* Resolution 36 (Rev. Guadalajara, 2010) of the Plenipotentiary Conference, on telecom­munications/ICTs in the service of humanitarian assistance;

*f)* Resolution 136 (Rev. Guadalajara, 2010) of the Plenipotentiary Conference, on the use of telecommunications/ICTs for monitoring and management in emergency and disaster situations for early warning, prevention, mitigation and relief;

*g)* Resolution ITU‑R 53, on the use of radiocommunications in disaster response and relief;

*h)* Resolution ITU‑R 55, on the ITU‑R studies of disaster prediction, detection, mitigation and relief;

*i)* that Resolution **646 (Rev.WRC‑12)** addresses the broader category of public protection and disaster relief (PPDR) and encourages administrations to consider identified frequency bands/ranges or parts thereof when undertaking their national planning for the purposes of achieving regionally harmonized frequency bands/ranges for advanced public protection and disaster relief solutions;

*j)* that some administrations may have different operational needs and spectrum requirements for emergency and disaster-relief applications, depending on their circumstances;

*k)* that the immediate availability of spectrum and relevant contact information to support emergency radiocommunication equipment is important for successful telecommunications in the very early stages of humanitarian assistance intervention for disaster relief,

aware

of the progress made in regional organizations around the world, and in particular in regional telecommunication organizations, on matters related to emergency communications planning and response,

recognizing further

that ITU-R has developed a Handbook on Emergency and Disaster Relief as well as various Reports and Recommendations relating to emergency and disaster relief operations and radiocommunication resources,

noting

*a)* the close relation of this Resolution with Resolution **646 (Rev.WRC‑12)**, on public protection and disaster relief, and the need to coordinate activities under these Resolutions in order to prevent any possible overlap;

*b)* that when a disaster occurs, the disaster relief agencies are usually the first on the scene using their day-to-day communication systems, but that in most cases other agencies and organizations may also be involved in disaster relief operations;

*c)* that there is a critical requirement to perform immediate spectrum management actions, including frequency coordination, sharing and spectrum reuse, within a disaster area;

*d)* that national spectrum planning for emergency and disaster relief should take into account the need for cooperation and bilateral consultation with other concerned administrations, which can be facilitated by spectrum harmonization, as well as agreed spectrum management guidelines pertaining to disaster relief and emergency planning;

*e)* that in times of disasters, radiocommunication facilities may be destroyed or impaired;

*f)* that availability of information, such as the identification of administration focal points, frequency availability within individual administrations within which equipment couldoperate, and any relevant instructions or procedures may ease the interoperability and/or interworking, with mutual cooperation and consultation, especially in national, regional and cross-border emergency situations and disaster relief activities,

noting further

*a)* that flexibility must be afforded to disaster relief agencies and organizations to use current and future radiocommunications, so as to facilitate their humanitarian operations;

*b)* that it is in the interest of administrations and disaster relief agencies and organizations to have access to updated information on national spectrum planning for emergency and disaster relief,

taking into account

*a)* that the Bureau has established and maintains a database containing administration contact information, available frequencies/frequency bands for use by terrestrial and space services, and any additional information or instructions relevant to emergency situations within these administrations;

*b)* that, the Bureau has advised that only limited information had been received from administrations for both the terrestrial and space services databases,

resolves

1 that the ITU Radiocommunication Sector (ITU‑R) continue to study those aspects of radiocommunications/ICT that are relevant to early warning, disaster mitigation and relief operations;

2 to urge the ITU‑R Study Groups, taking into account the scope of ongoing studies/ activities appended to Resolution ITU‑R 55, to accelerate their work, particularly in the areas of disaster prediction, detection, mitigation and relief;

3 to encourage administrations to communicate, as soon as possible to the BR, at the very minimum, up-to-date focal point contact information, and any relevant instructions or procedures;

4 to reiterate to administrations the importance of having up-to-date information referred to in *resolves* 3 above available for use in the very early stages of humanitarian assistance intervention for disaster relief,

instructs the Director of the Radiocommunication Bureau

1 to continue to assist Member States with their emergency communication preparedness activities by maintaining the database[[3]](#footnote-3)3 of information from administrations for use in emergency situations, which includes contact information;

2 to facilitate online access to the database by administrations, national regulatory authorities, disaster relief agencies and organizations, in particular the United Nations Emergency Relief Coordinator, in accordance with the operating procedures developed for disaster situations;

3 to collaborate with the United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs and other organizations, as appropriate, in the development and dissemination of standard operating procedures and relevant spectrum management practices for use in the event of a disaster situation;

4 to collaborate, as appropriate, with the United Nations Working Group on Emergency Telecommunications (WGET) and the radio frequency and radio standards group under the U.N. [Emergency Telecommunications Cluster](http://ictemergency.wfp.org/web/ictepr/emergency-telecommunications-cluster) (ETC) for which the WFP (World Food Program) is the cluster lead;

5 to take into consideration, and collaborate as appropriate, all relevant activities in ITU’s other two Sectors and General Secretariat;

6 to report to subsequent World Radiocommunication Conferences on the status and progress of updates to the ITU database for emergency and disaster relief operations,

invites ITU‑R

to continue conducting studies as necessary, in support of developing and maintaining appropriate spectrum management guidelines applicable in emergency and disaster relief operations,

invites the Director of the Telecommunication Standardization Bureau and the Director of the Telecommunication Development Bureau

to collaborate closely with the Director of the Radiocommunication Bureau to ensure that a consistent and coherent approach is adopted in the development of strategies in response to emergency and disaster situations,

urges administrations

1 to participate in the emergency communication preparedness activities described above and to provide to the Bureau their information and, in particular, up-to-date contact information related to emergency and disaster relief radiocommunications for inclusion in the database, taking into account Resolution ITU‑R 53;

2 to assist in keeping the database up to date by advising the Bureau on an ongoing basis of any modifications to the information requested above.

**Reasons:** Aims to increase participation with respect to administration submissions to the database by refocussing the submission requirements; reflect the status of currently available spectrum management guidelines relating to emergency and disaster relief and the need to develop and maintain such documentation as needed; and, incorporate necessary elements from Resolution 644 (Rev.WRC-12) to consolidate these resolutions and reduce overlap of issues. The need to maintain an updated Resolution 647 is supported through its current use within and outside ITU-R, including the internet web page and databases that have been specifically created for this Resolution by the ITU.

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RESOLUTION 644 (Rev.WRC‑12)

Radiocommunication resources for early warning, disaster   
mitigation and relief operations

**Reasons:** No longer required as the necessary elements of this resolution have been incorporated into a revision of Resolution 647. The proposed suppression of Resolution 644 (Rev.WRC-12) has no impact or consequences with respect to the single historical reference of the 1997 version of this Resolution found in the Tampere Convention.

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1. 1 Radiocommunication for mitigation and relief operations relating to emergency and disaster refers to radiocommunications used by agencies and organizations dealing with a serious disruption of the functioning of society, posing a significant widespread threat to human life, health, property or the environment, whether caused by accident, natural phenomena or human activity, and whether occurring suddenly or as a result of complex, long-term processes. [↑](#footnote-ref-1)
2. 2 However, a number of countries have not ratified the Tampere Convention. [↑](#footnote-ref-2)
3. 3 The database may be accessed at http://www.itu.int/ITU. [↑](#footnote-ref-3)