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| **World Radiocommunication Conference (WRC-15) Geneva, 2–27 November 2015** |  |
| **INTERNATIONAL TELECOMMUNICATION UNION** |  |
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| PLENARY MEETING | **Addendum 3 to Document 56-E** |
|  | **19 October 2015** |
|  | **Original: English** |
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| Bulgaria (Republic of) | |
| Proposals for the work of the conference | |
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| Agenda item 9 | |

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

Introduction

Management of the spectrum/orbit resource are incorporated in the Constitution (CS) and Convention (CV) of the ITU and in the Radio Regulations (RR) that complement them. These instruments contain the main principles and lay down the rights and obligations of member administrations in obtaining access to the spectrum/orbit resource. They also lay down the main principles of efficient use of and equitable access to the spectrum/orbit resource. Article 44 of theITU Constitution specifies that:

"*In using frequency bands for radio services, Members States shall bear in mind that radio frequencies and any associated orbits, including the geostationary-satellite orbit, are limited natural resources and that they must be used rationally, efficiently and economically, in conformity with the provisions of the Radio Regulations, so that countries or groups of countries may have equitable access to those orbits and frequencies, taking into account the special needs of the developing countries and the geographical situation of particular countries*".

Republic of Bulgaria notes that since the ITU Constitution and Convention and the Radio Regulations are intergovernmental treaties; they are on the basis of the two main principles: efficient use and equitable access. As the Director of the Radiocommunication Bureau has reported to WRC-12, the challenge facing the Bureau is ensuring that frequencies and orbital positions are used in a rational, equitable, efficient way and finding mechanisms and practical strategies that can be employed to ensure achieving this objective.

Appendices 30 and 30A to the Radio Regulations contain downlink Plans for the broadcasting-satellite service (BSS) in the 12 GHz band and the associated feeder-link Plans in the fixed-satellite service (FSS) in the 14 and 17 GHz bands. These Plans were established with a view to facilitating the equitable access to the geostationary-satellite orbit (GSO) for all countries.

The WRC-2000 developed new BSS Plans for Regions 1 and 3 that increased the capacity for each country to the equivalent of 10 analogue channels in Region 1 and to the equivalent of 12 analogue channels in Region 3 utilizing digital modulation. In addition, the Conference changed the regulations governing the BSS Plans, in general, and the coordination procedure for submissions under Article 4 of Appendix 30, in particular, by introducing RR No. 4.1.18 that mainly followed the principles used in RR No. 11.41 for unplanned bands. RR No. 4.1.18 states:

*4.1.18: If, in spite of the application of § 4.1.16 and 4.1.17, there is still continuing disagreement and the assignment which was the basis of the disagreement is not an assignment in the Regions 1 and 3 Plan, or in the Region 2 Plan or for which the procedure of § 4.2 has been initiated, and if the notifying administration insists that the proposed assignment be included in the Regions 1 and 3 List, the Bureau shall provisionally enter the assignment in the Regions 1 and 3 List with an indication of those administrations whose assignments were the basis of the disagreement; however, the entry shall be changed from provisional to definitive recording in the List only if the Bureau is informed that the new assignment in the Regions 1 and 3 List has been in use, together with the assignment which was the basis for the disagreement, for at least four months without any complaint of harmful interference being made.     (WRC‑03)*

The changes in WRC-2000 and WRC-2003 allow satellite networks to use the above procedure of Article 4 of Appendix 30 in orderto be included in the Regions 1 and 3 List of additional uses since, as the Director of the Radiocommunication Bureau reported at the previous Conference, they have not caused unacceptable increase in interference. The rationale given by the Director was that for those satellite networks for which coordination is required, their actual operation characteristics in fact are less sensitive than those that had been recorded by the Bureau. That is, no excessive interference can actually be caused. In fact RR No. 4.1.18 (similar to RR No. 11.41 for unplanned bands) provides flexibility for a satellite network to be notified and recorded without completing all required coordination, and therefore precludes “virtual frequency assignments” from blocking such recording.

In Circular Letter CR/301 dated 1 May 2009, the Radiocommunication Bureau urged all administrations to remove unused frequency assignments and networks from the Master Register. In parallel with this request, the Bureau also decided to use RR No. 13.6 to enforce the removal of unused frequency assignments when their use has not been suspended in accordance with the Radio Regulations.

Republic of Bulgaria also notes that the date of bringing into use denotes the date at which a frequency assignment is brought into regular operation to provide the published radiocommunication service within the technical characteristics notified to the Bureau. In fact, the Bureau has reported that it has been a major concern of the Bureau to determine the extent to which the technical characteristics of a satellite in operation match the characteristics of the filed satellite network.

**Proposal**

BUL/56A3/1

Republic of Bulgaria is of the view that if any issues raised in the Director’s Report regarding revising any parts of Appendix 30 and Appendix 30A of the Radio Regulations, the Conference should mandate the ITU-R Study Groups carefully examine it to ensure the proposed changes to the appendices will not impact the integrity of the Plan, and fully respect the protection of other services so that there would be no unintended consequences[[1]](#footnote-1).

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1. A revision of the Radio Regulation in Appendices 30 and 30A was proposed to the last WP4A meeting in 2015 and WP4A decided that it was inappropriate to take any actions. This decision was reached since there was not enough study done on the pros and cons of the proposed change. [↑](#footnote-ref-1)