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Terrestrial Services Department

REGIONAL AGREEMENT, GENEVA 2006

PLAN MODIFICATION AND NOTIFICATION PROCEDURES

1 Introduction

Like many other Agreements, the GE06 Agreement contains an Article 4 for modification of the Plan(s), and an Article 5 for notification of assignments to the MIFR. This is where the similarity ends as these two Articles are now much more complex than in any other previous Agreements.

One of the reasons for this complexity is the fact that, in the digital Plan, there are five different types of Plan entries as described in the Agreement and summarized in § 4.3 of this document.

2 General aspects of the Agreement

Planning Area (as defined in § 1.8 of the Agreement): Region 1 (those parts of Region 1, as defined in No. 5.3 of the *Radio Regulations*, situated to the west of meridian 170° E and to the north of parallel 40° S, except the territories of Mongolia) and the Islamic Republic of Iran.

Frequency bands

Band III: 174-230 MHz¹

Band IV: 470-582 MHz

Band V: 582-862 MHz

Plans

The Regional Radiocommunication Conference (RRC) in Geneva 2006 established two frequency Plans as annexed to the Agreement.

¹ For Morocco, the analogue Plan covers the band 170-230 MHz.

The digital Plan (GE06D) contains the following number of records:

GE06D	Seminar 2006		Seminar 2008		Seminar 2012		Seminar 2014		Seminar 2016		Seminar 2018	
BAND	T-DAB	DVB-T	T-DAB	DVB-T	T-DAB	DVB-T	T-DAB	DVB-T	T-DAB	DVB-T	T-DAB	DVB-T
GE06D-III	8 379	6 703	8 740	6 735	9 531	6 831	10 209	7 385	11326	7455	11921	7502
GE06D-III (TOTAL)	15 082		15 475		16 362		17 594		18781		19423	
GE06D-IV	-	20 874	-	21 532	-	24 141	-	28 191	-	28413	-	29441
GE06D-V	-	30 921	-	32 156	-	38 249	-	54 574	-	55103	-	56409
GE06D-IV/V (TOTAL)	-	51 795	-	53 688	-	62 390	-	82 765	-	83516	-	85850

The percentage increases in the GE06 digital Plan records are as follows:

GE06D	Increase 2006-2008		Increase 2008-2012		Increase 2012-2014		Increase 2014-2016		Increase 2016-2018		Increase 2006-2018	
BAND	T-DAB	DVB-T	T-DAB	DVB-T	T-DAB	DVB-T	T-DAB	DVB-T	T-DAB	DVB-T	T-DAB	DVB-T
GE06D- III	4.31%	0.48%	9.05%	1.43%	7.11%	8.11%	10.94%	0.95%	5.25%	0.63%	42.27%	11.92%
GE06D-IV	-	3.15%	-	12.12%	-	16.78%	-	0.79%	-	3.62%	-	41.04%
GE06D-V	-	3.99%	-	18.95%	-	42.68%	-	0.97%	-	2.37%	-	82.43%
GE06D-IV/V (TOTAL)	-	3.65%	-	16.21%	-	32.66%	-	0.91%	-	2.79%	-	65.75%

The GE06 Analogue Plan (GE06A) contains only analogue television assignments. This analogue Plan will exist only until the end of the transition period (set to end on 17 June 2015 for some administrations and 17 June 2020 for others, see Article 12 of the Agreement).

The Analogue Plan GE06A contains:

GE06A	Seminar 2006	Seminar 2008	Seminar 2012	Seminar 2014	Seminar 2016	Seminar 2018
GE06A-III	12 066	12 317	12 436	12 488	2139	2169

3 Modification of the broadcasting Plans

Article 4 of the GE06 Agreement is entitled: “Procedure for modifications to the Plans and procedure for coordination of other primary terrestrial services”. The second part on coordination of other primary services (OPS) is covered in section 4.2 of Article 4 and will be described in another document. This document deals only with section 4.1 of Article 4 related to the broadcasting Plans.

The types of modifications requiring application of the Article 4 procedure are:

- Change characteristics of an allotment or assignment already in the Plans

- Add an allotment or assignment to the Plans
- Add an assignment stemming from an allotment to the digital Plan
- Cancel (suppress) from the Plans an allotment or an assignment.

A proposed modification can enter into the Plans, only after the agreement of administrations whose broadcasting service or other primary services are possibly affected.

3.1 Features of Article 4

Some main features of the GE06 Article 4 procedure are described below:

3.1.1 Requirement for agreement from another administration based on coordination trigger field-strength contours

In previous FM/TV Regional Agreements, the identification of possibly affected administrations with which agreement has to be sought is determined using a set of tables of required coordination distances (to the nearest border). For the GE06 Agreement, a slightly more complex procedure (including the determination of trigger field strengths followed by the construction of coordination contours) is used (Section I of Annex 4 of the Agreement).

3.1.2 Use of coordination contours for protection of OPS

In earlier Agreements like GE84 or GE89 the coordination trigger was based on the value of field strength at the site or at the boundary of the country of the OPS assignments. The difference in the GE06 Agreement is that now a list of trigger field strengths for the protection of OPS is established, followed by the construction of coordination contours.

Trigger values to be used for protection of other primary terrestrial services from analogue television assignments for cases not covered by any ITU-R Recommendation shall be calculated using the following formula:

$$F_{trigger\ ATV} = F_{trigger\ DVB-T} - RPR$$

where:

$F_{trigger\ ATV}$ = trigger value for analogue television

$F_{trigger\ DVB-T}$ = trigger value for digital television

RPR = *relative protection ratio in accordance with Recommendation ITU-R SM.851-1.*

(Part A10 of the Rules of Procedure)

3.1.3 Rapid procedure for conversion of allotment into one or more assignments

When an administration proposes to add to the digital Plan one or more assignments stemming from an allotment and the Bureau finds that all the conditions of Section II of Annex 4 (Examination of conformity with the digital Plan entry) are met, the proposed modification can be published immediately in Part B and recorded into the digital Plan.

In the case of proposed changes to the characteristics of an allotment already included in the Plan, which also comprises one or several assignments converted stemming from the allotment already included in the Plan, the Bureau will publish only the characteristics of the modified allotment; until the successful completion of the Plan modification procedure for the modified allotment, the Bureau will retain and continue to protect the previous allotment (together with the assignments stemming from that allotment); After the successful completion of the Plan modification procedure for the modified allotment, the Bureau will include it in the Plan (as a replacement for the previous allotment) and will examine all the assignments stemming from the previous allotment, if any, with respect to their conformity with the replacement allotment. If the assignments are in conformity with the replacement allotment, they will be maintained in the Plan; otherwise they will be deleted from the Plan and the administration concerned will be informed accordingly. See Part A10 of the Rules of Procedure.

3.1.4 No reply is equal to a refusal

Identified affected administrations have a 75-day comment period from the date of publication of Part A of Special Sections to give their agreement or refusal to a proposed modification. What is different in the GE06 Agreement is that No Reply within this period means refusal of the proposed modification.

3.1.5 After reminder No reply = Agreement

If requested by the administration proposing the modification (§ 4.1.4.10), the BR will send a reminder to non-replying administrations. In this case, no reply after a 40-day period is deemed to be an agreement to the proposed modification.

3.1.6 Shortest time for completion of the procedure – 40 days

If a proposed modification, published in Part A of a Special Section contains all required agreements plus a request to publish in Part B, the BR, after waiting 40 days from the date of publication to ensure that no administration requests inclusion in the agreement-seeking process, will initiate the Part B publication procedure.

3.1.7 Longest time for completion of the procedure – 2 years and 75 days

The administration proposing the modification to the Plans has 24 months after the end of the 75-day comment period to provide the Bureau with the final characteristics of the assignment/allotment and to request publication in Part B.

3.1.8 After 2 years and 75 days procedure must be restarted

Certain Regional Agreements, like GE84 for example have no period after which proposed modifications lapse. This can potentially stop entry into the Plans by other proposed modifications and leaves a lot of “dead wood” entries in the Plan. To avoid these problems, modifications for which the procedure is not completed 24 months after the end of the comment period will lapse.

3.2 Description of the Article 4 procedure (flowcharts & Gantt charts)

The flowcharts available at: www.itu.int/en/ITU-R/terrestrial/broadcast/plans/Documents/GE06%20Art4.pdf describe in detail the procedures to be applied under Article 4. These flowcharts describe the actions by administrations and the Bureau in the processing of notices. The relevant paragraph number of Article 4 is indicated in or near the decision and action boxes.

Flowchart No.	Description	Article 4 §
GE06-1	Introductory chart pointing to one of the 3 others	
GE06-2	Add/change assignment/allotment	4.1.1 a) b)
GE06-3	Add an assignment stemming from an allotment	4.1.1 c)
GE06-4	Cancel an assignment or allotment	4.1.1 d)

3.3 Description of Section I of Annex 4 for the determination of coordination requirements

Annex 1 to this document shows in a simple flowchart the different steps described in Section I of Annex 4 of the Agreement.

The procedure itself is very straightforward, involving the determination of trigger field strengths to protect broadcasting (BC) and/or other primary services (OPS). The administrations must be coordinated with, when the respective trigger contours include/intersect with:

Service	Boundary, site or service area
BC	National boundaries
OPS	Receiving stations/service areas

4 Notification procedures for broadcasting frequency assignments

Section 5.1 of Article 5 of the Agreement provides procedures for notification under Article 11 of the Radio Regulations of assignment to broadcasting stations. Notification of assignments to other primary services is discussed in a different document.

The first examination is that of conformity with the Table of Frequency Allocations under RR No. **11.31**. If this is favourable, examination under RR No. **11.34** can continue for the different cases covered in Article 5.

4.1 Features of Article 5 with respect to broadcasting notifications

No.	Feature	Article 5 §
4.1.1	Three main cases of notifications	5.1.2
4.1.2	Different characteristics are possible for a digital plan entry	5.1.3
4.1.3	Administration may resubmit notice for examination	5.1.6
4.1.4	Recordings when 2nd examination is unfavourable	5.1.7

4.1.1 Three main cases of notifications

There are three main cases of notifications under RR No. **11.34**:

- Assignment in one of the Plans and bearing remarks or not with respect to other assignments/entries in the Plans (5.1.2 a) and 5.1.2 b)
- Assignment stemming from an allotment in the digital Plan and bearing remarks or not with respect to other assignments/entries in the Plans (5.1.2 c) d))
- Assignment to an entry in the digital Plan, within T-DAB or DVB-T but with different characteristics (5.1.2 e)).

4.1.2 Different characteristics are possible for a digital plan entry

A digital entry in the Plan can be used with different characteristics for broadcasting and other services as long as the spectral power density of the assignment in any 4 kHz does not exceed that of the digital entry in the Plan (5.1.3).

4.1.3 Administration may resubmit notice for re-examination

After an unfavourable finding, an administration may resubmit the notification after correcting the situation (i.e. notification before Plan modification is completed) or characteristics that made the original notification obtain an unfavourable finding.

4.1.4 Recordings when 2nd examination is unfavourable

In some cases, a notification will receive an unfavourable finding even after re-examination. In such cases, the assignment will be recorded with a favourable finding under RR No. **11.31** but unfavourable under RR No. **11.34** (along with the names of the administrations with which there is still disagreement). (5.1.7)

4.2 Description of the Article 5 procedure including flowcharts

The flowcharts available at: www.itu.int/en/ITU-R/terrestrial/broadcast/plans/Documents/GE06%20Art5.pdf describe in detail the procedures to be applied under Article 5. These flowcharts describe the actions by administrations and the Bureau in the processing of notifications. The relevant paragraph number of the Article 5 is indicated in or near the decision and action boxes.

Flowchart No.	Description of the notification	Article 5 §
GE06-5	Introductory chart with RR11.31 examination pointing to one of the 4 others following it	5.1
GE06-6	Notification of an assignment in one of the Plans	5.1.2 a) b)
GE06-7	Notification of an assignment stemming from an allotment	5.1.2 c) d)
GE06-8	Notification of an assignment with different characteristics within T-DAB or DVB-T	5.1.2 e)
GE06-9	Digital entry with different characteristics for broadcasting or other primary services	5.1.3
GE06-10	Resubmission after unfavourable finding	5.1.6

4.3 Description of broadcasting Plan entries

The different Plan entry codes are listed in the first four tables of Annex 1 of the Agreement.

The table below indicates which procedure of Section 2 of Annex 4 (S.2 A.4) should be used to verify the conformity of the implementation of a given Plan entry:

Plan entry code	Description	(S.2 A.4) §
1	One assignment only	4.2
2	Single Frequency Network (SFN)	4.4
3	One allotment only	4.1
4	Allotment with linked assignments	4.3
5	An assignment linked to an allotment with no SFN identifier	4.5

Annex

Flowchart of Section I of Annex 4 of GE06 Agreement for the determination of coordination requirements

Flowchart
GE06-11

Section I of Annex 4

Determination of Coordination requirements

