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|  |  **Radiocommunication Advisory Group Geneva, 10-13 May 2016** |  |
| **INTERNATIONAL TELECOMMUNICATION UNION** |  |
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|  | **Document RAG16/8-E** |
| **18 April 2016** |
| **Original: English** |
| Azerbaijan (Republic of) |
| Outcome of THE WRC-15 |

# Introduction

Owing to decision which was taken in WRC-15, about agenda item 1.2 and Resolution 232 (WRC‑12) concerning the use of the 694-790 MHz frequency band for mobile communication services (excluding the air mobile service) in the Region 1, certain difficulties are experienced in application of mobile broadband communication services in the region where the Republic of Azerbaijan is located.

# Background information

We are highly appreciative of the examinations and studies carried out by ITU’s Joint Task Group 4-5-6-7 (JTG 4-5-6-7) until the start of the WRC-15, concerning joint use of the 694-790 MHz frequency band for both mobile communication and digital TV broadcasting. The outcomes of the studies carried out by this Group clearly outlined that use of the 694-790 MHz frequency band for both mobile communication and digital TV broadcasting can be relatively hard, if not impossible. This Group also included the experts of the Communications Administration of the Republic of Azerbaijan. We well remember that these issues were in the center of the heated discussions in the course of the WRC-15, though eventually a decision was taken, under certain conditions, to use the 694-790 MHz frequency band jointly for mobile communication and digital TV broadcasting. Of course, we herewith do not wish to cast a doubt on the compromise decision that was taken in the course of the WRC-15 concerning this issue. We think that the mechanisms for implementation of WRC decisions need to be clear and comprehensible in order to allow Member States to achieve maximum benefits out of such decisions.

In Azerbaijan, the 694-790 MHz frequency band has been allocated to mobile operators to allow them apply LTE services since 2014, as it is in other European states. Nevertheless, it is still impossible to use that frequency band for application of these services for a number of reasons, be it for objective or subjective grounds. Thus, the reports of the Joint Task Group 4-5-6-7 (JTG 4-5-6-7) reveal that the coordination distance in the same band and in the same region for application of both digital TV broadcasting and mobile communication services constitutes at least 250 km. The Caucasus region, where the Republic of Azerbaijan is located, is increasingly mountainous area. Here Azerbaijan borders with the countries of the Region 1 in its north and west, whereas Azerbaijan’s neighbor in the south border is a country of the Region 3. More to the point, a large portion of Azerbaijan’s territory is largely influenced by the TV and radio programs of these countries since many TV and radio stations of these neighboring countries have been installed in those mountainous areas. As per information at hand, some of Azerbaijan’s neighboring countries plan to continue rendering TV services in this band, while others look set to apply mobile communication services in this band. As such, the coordination of these services in this region now turns out to be a knotty problem. Not to the lesser extent, the fact that the WRC-15 decision relates to the Region 1 and that Azerbaijan has a long border in its south with a Region 3 country only makes this issue a hard-to-reach problem. The vast coordination distances, as it was mentioned, foretell that mobile communication services in the 694-790 MHz frequency band, especially in countries with small areas like Azerbaijan, will be inapplicable for years to come. Furthermore, ITU Recommendations such as M.2090, BT.1368, BT.2033 and many others, which have been listed in the WRC-15 Resolution concerning the issue in question, would not be helpful in sorting out the difficulties faced in the use of various services in the 694-790 MHz frequency band.

Concurrently, if TV broadcasting is continued to be applied at the 694-790 MHz frequency band in Azerbaijan too, then other neighboring countries will face difficulties in applying mobile communication technologies. It is a chain process and can influence other countries too.

# Proposal

In line with this and for the purpose of achieving an expedient use *(application of digital TV broadcasting or mobile communication services)* of the 694-790 MHz frequency band in the region where Azerbaijan is located, we would like to propose that a study be carried out by appropriate ITU study commissions, and find a joint solution with Member States of the region with close involvement of the Radiocommunication Bureau.

# Expected outcome

To achieve an expedient use of the 694-790 MHz frequency band in the Region where no mutual interference is present.

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