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| REVIEW OF DECISIONS OF REGIONAL RADIOCOMMUNICATION CONFERENCES | | |

The Radiocommunication Sector (ITU-R) conducts its activities through: World and Regional Radiocommunication Conferences, the Radio Regulations Board, Radiocommunication Assemblies, Radiocommunication Study Groups, the Radiocommunication Advisory Group, and the Radiocommunication Bureau headed by the elected Director. It came to our notice that effective dates of application of certain decisions made by Regional Radiocommunication Conferences (for instance ST61 and GE75) went back a long way. Over many decades since the adoption of these regional agreements, ITU has convened numerous World Administrative Radiocommunication Conferences or World Radiocommunication Conferences to revise the Radio Regulations. Under § 4 of Article 13 of the Constitution, “the decisions of … a Regional Radiocommunication Conference shall also in all circumstances be in conformity with the Radio Regulations”. When an agenda item of a World Radiocommunication Conference involves a regional agreement (for instance AI 1.2 of WRC-15 and AI 1.1 of WRC-19 relate to GE06 and ST61 respectively), revisions to the Radio Regulations under these agenda items are actually based on the prerequisite that no changes shall be introduced to decisions of Regional Radiocommunication Conferences. Even with that, there is no guarantee that existing decisions of Regional Radiocommunication Conferences are completely consistent with the provisions of the Radio Regulations. Moreover, with the advances in radiocommunication technologies and applications, sometimes it is inevitably necessary to modify the decisions of a Regional Radiocommunication Conference. As an expedient approach, in certain cases, the Radio Regulation Board can be invited to make a new rule of procedure to accommodate new requirements and expand the scope of regional agreements (for example, the introduction of digital broadcasting in the GE75 plan). However, only the related Regional Radiocommunication Conference has the prerogative to convert the rule into a provision of the regional agreement. Unlike World Radiocommunication Conferences, neither the Constitution nor the Convention specifies the frequency and conditions of convening a Regional Radiocommunication Conference. Meanwhile, in view of financial implications and other factors, it is highly unlikely that a Regional Radiocommunication Conference will be convened in the foreseeable future.

In view of the fact that Regional Radiocommunication Conferences will most likely not be convened on a regular basis, ensuring that the decisions of Regional Radiocommunication Conferences are consistent with the regularly updated Radio Regulations and reflect most recent radiocommunication technologies and applications has become a challenge. There could be several options. For instance, convert certain regional agreements adopted by Regional Radiocommunication Conferences into an appendix of the Radio Regulations through an appropriate way to make it possible to review them on regular basis; or consider a possible revision to Resolution 95 (Rev. WRC-07) to include provisions regarding the general review of Resolutions and Recommendations of Regional Radiocommunication Conferences. Unquestionably, this represents a very complicated task, and preliminary ideas in this contribution that are intended to trigger discussions at the forthcoming RAG meeting are now submitted for its consideration.

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