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| **Radiocommunication Advisory Group Geneva, 26-28 April 2017** |  | |
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| Japan | | |
| Definition and usage of notes and footnotes in ITU‑R Recommendations | | |

There are a number of ITU-R Recommendations that use “notes” and “footnotes” to clarify text and provide supplemental information. There are different types of notes; notes to the main text, footnotes to the main text, notes to table and figures, and footnotes to tables and figures. It is generally understood that unless otherwise specified, text including notes and footnotes in an ITU‑R Recommendation form an integral part of a Recommendation and considered normative.

ISO/IEC Standards and ITU-T Recommendations follow ISO/IEC Directives – Part 2:2016 “Principles and rules for the structure and drafting of ISO and IEC documents” and Recommendation ITU-T A.15001 “Author's guide for drafting ITU-T Recommendations,” respectively. Table 1 summarizes the definitions and usage of notes and footnotes specified for ISO/IEC Standards and ITU-T Recommendations. It was found that they are mostly in common with each other; however, the degree of detail differs.

Director’s Guidelines referred to in Resolution ITU-R 1-7 (§ A1.6.2) contain the mandatory common format for new and revised ITU-R Recommendations (“Format of ITU-R Recommendations”) but this does not provide definitions and usage of “notes” and “footnotes”.

It is highly desirable that definitions and usage of different types of notes and footnotes be given for ITU-R Recommendations, preferably in accordance with the rules common to ISO/IEC and ITU-T, to avoid possible misinterpretations of notes and footnotes in ITU-R Recommendations. In particular, commonality with ISO/IEC Standards and ITU-T Recommendations is desirable for ITU-R Recommendations that provide system specifications or test procedures.

Japan proposes that the RAG consider extending the “Format of ITU-R Recommendations” to include definitions and usage of the different types of notes and footnotes that are in common with those of ISO/IEC and ITU-T. An updated “Format of ITU-R Recommendations” should be applicable to all new or revised ITU-R Recommendations published after a certain date, to be agreed.

Moreover, considering that ITU has established agreements with ISO, IEC, SMPTE and ETSI for mutual cooperation and exchange of documentations, common rules for documentation might be desirable, as in the case for the common IPR policy. The RAG is invited to consider this possibility.

Table 1

Definitions and usage of notes and footnotes specified for ISO/IEC Standards  
and ITU-T Recommendations

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| Types of notes | ISO/IEC Directives – Part 2 | Recommendation ITU-T A.15001 |
| Notes to the main text | 24 Notes  shall not contain requirements or any information considered indispensable for the use of the document | 9.6.1 Notes and footnotes to the main text  should not contain normative specifications |
| Footnotes to the main text | 26 Footnotes  shall not contain requirements or any information considered indispensable for the use of the document |
| Notes to tables | 29.5.1 Notes to tables  shall not contain requirements or any information considered indispensable for the use of the document | 9.6.2 Notes to tables and figures  may contain normative specifications |
| Notes to figures | 28.5.4 Notes to figures  shall not contain requirements or any information considered indispensable for the use of the document |
| Footnotes to tables | 29.5.2 Footnotes to tables  may contain requirements |  |
| Footnotes to figures | 28.5.5 Footnotes to figures  may contain requirements |  |

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