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| Review of Resolution ITU-R 2 | | |

# 1 Introduction

During its 2016 meeting and following an instruction from the Radiocommunication Assembly of 2015 (RA-15), the Radiocommunication Advisory Group (RAG) discussed possible improvements to the WRC preparatory process and, among others, considered a document submitted by France supporting the current CPM process and proposing a possible reduction of the duration of CPM-2 to 8 working days, from a Tuesday to a Thursday. RAG “requested members to further consider the draft proposals contained therein for further consideration during its next meeting in 2017” (see Section 5 of the Summary of conclusions of the twenty-third Radiocommunication Advisory Group meeting, as contained in Administrative Circular CA/229).

# 2 Proposals

France supports the current WRC preparatory process with two sessions of the Conference Preparatory Meeting, the first at the end of the preceding WRC to organise the overall preparatory structure, the second seven to eight months before the WRC to finalise the report for the next WRC.

While the first session is required to put in place all the necessary arrangements for the ITU-R groups to conduct the appropriate preparatory studies for the various WRC agenda items, France considers the second session as indispensable to allow administrations and regional groups to have a first detailed exchange of views concerning possible solutions to agenda items, which would ensure that the regional groups will have a better understanding of the various positions when finalising their common proposals to the Conference.

France therefore considers that Resolution ITU-R 2 should essentially be kept stable in its current form, with the possible exception of revising minor items where the text of the Resolution could be made clearer or more consistent with the current practice.

However, a number of improvements could be proposed in the schedule and practical arrangements for the second session of the CPM in order to further improve the effectiveness of the overall process:

– RA-15 suppressed Resolution ITU-R 38 about the Special Committee, which should provide additional flexibility in defining the deadline for the responsible ITU-R Working Parties to conclude their work on the draft CPM texts. Assuming a WRC takes place in November of year N and noting that the second session of the CPM should “be scheduled to allow publication of the Final Report in the six official languages of the Union six months before the next WRC” (see §2.4 of Annex 1 of Resolution ITU-R 2-7), the CPM Report should be available at the beginning of May of year N. Scheduling the second session of the CPM in March of year N should allow to meet this target. Noting that the draft CPM Report “shall be translated into the six official languages of the Union and should be distributed to Member States a minimum of three months prior to the date scheduled for the second session of CPM” (see §7 of Annex 1 of Resolution ITU-R 2-7), the beginning of December of yean N-1 could be the target for availability of the draft CPM Report in the six official languages. It seems therefore overly conservative to set the deadline for ITU-R Working Parties to finish their work in August of year N-1, but this date could reasonably be transferred to the end of October of year N-1, if a small modification to the current process is implemented as per the following bullet.

– According to the current version of Resolution ITU-R 2 (see §6 of Annex 1 of Resolution ITU-R 2-7), the CPM Management Team will held a meeting to “consolidate the output from the responsible groups into the draft CPM Report, which will be an input document to the second session of CPM”. Noting that most of the work of the CPM Management Team is of editorial nature, in order to ensure consistency of the overall CPM Report to a WRC, it is suggested to defer the meeting of the CPM Management Team after the end of the second session of the CPM, so that the editorial work on the CPM Report be done on the final texts, instead of the output of the ITU-R Working Parties. With this change, the draft CPM Report would therefore be the set of outputs provided by the ITU-R Working Parties. The various parts of the draft CPM Report could be made available on a dedicated web page, in English as soon as the responsible ITU-R Working Party has concluded its work, and then in the five other languages as soon as the translations become available. Translations could therefore be made as soon as an ITU-R Working Party has concluded its work, which should allow to schedule a last block meeting from end of August to end of October of year N-1.

– It now often occurs that some agenda items do not trigger any input contribution to the second session of the CPM: for such cases, it is suggested to adopt the draft CPM texts during the introductory Plenary of the second session of the CPM, without any further discussion during the remaining part of the meeting.

– If the previous change is adopted, the second session of the CPM could likely last only for 8 working days, from a Tuesday to a Thursday.

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