|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **Radiocommunication Advisory Group Geneva, 26-29 March 2018** |  | |
|  | |  |
|  | |  |
|  | | **Document RAG18/7-E** |
| **8 March 2018** |
| **Original: English** |
| France, Germany (Federal Republic of), Russian Federation | | |
| Proposals towards drawing up issues under certain agenda items of World Radiocommunication Conferences | | |

# Introduction

Having analysed the amount of issues considered under standing agenda items 7 and 9.2 of previous World Radiocommunication Conferences, it is invited to discuss the proposals that would allow Administrations to better prepare for the consideration of such issues at the Conference and improve its performance.

# WRC agenda item 7

The analysis of the amount of issues considered at the last WRC under agenda item 7

"to consider possible changes, and other options, in response to Resolution 86 (Rev. Marrakesh, 2002) of the Plenipotentiary Conference, an advance publication, coordination, notification and recording procedures for frequency assignments pertaining to satellite networks, in accordance with Resolution 86 (Rev.WRC-07), in order to facilitate rational, efficient and economical use of radio frequencies and any associated orbits, including the geostationary-satellite orbit"

has shown that their amount is permanently high, e.g., WRC-12 considered more than 20 issues under AI 7; WRC-15 considered more than 14 issues, not taking into account the issues raised directly at the Conference. The situation with the amount of issues under WRC-19 AI 7 looks alike, and now WP4A has already identified 17 issues and proposals kept being submitted.

Issues are normally added according to the proposals which are based on practical experience and reflect most important problems in the process of coordination, notification and recording of frequency assignments to satellite networks and require relevant modification of the RR provisions. Thorough consideration of each proposal and finding agreement between all parties are therefore required.

Indeed, a large amount of issues being considered under the standing agenda item 7 requires spending significant resources of administrations, both time-consuming and human resources. At the same time, if such issues had timely been studied and if there had been sufficient time for their study, such a large amount of issues would not cause difficulties for administrations.

In this regard, it is proposed to consider the possibility of establishing a time limit within WPs for the opening of new issues under agenda item 7, for example, by limiting this period to the second session of the CPM.

Obviously, administrations have the right to submit contributions to the Conference with new issues under agenda item 7 or any other agenda item, and the Conference will have to consider them and take an appropriate decision. However, it is often difficult for administrations to find solutions on such issues because of the lack of relevant studies and the lack of a position agreed at the national or regional levels. For such issues, the experience of the past conferences shows that due to time limitations and complexity of resolving such issues during the WRC those issues are further discussed during the next study period.

## *Proposals*

*1. To include into consideration under WRC agenda item 7 only the issues considered by the relevant Working Party prior to the second session of the CPM and included into the draft CPM Report, in order to give administrations and regional telecommunication organizations sufficient time to draw up a position and develop regulatory texts.*

*2. The issues submitted directly to the Conference, for which the Conference had not been able to make solutions, should be studied in the next study period based on the contributions from administrations.*

*3. The issues for which only single Method has been proposed and agreement has been reached in the ITU-R, are proposed to be considered on the first day of the Conference during the Plenary Meeting and, if the Conference agrees, it is proposed to take decisions on them without addressing them at the level of Committees and Working Groups.*

In order to implement the above-mentioned proposal 1, modifications to Resolution ITU-R 2-7 "Conference Preparatory Meeting" are proposed. The proposals to modify Resolution ITU-R 2-7 are shown in the Annex.

Proposals 2 and 3 could be implemented at WRC-19, subject to the relevant decisions adopted by the Conference. These proposals are shown to give a full description of the proposed approach and to attract the attention of administrations to them, and therefore they do not require any actions from RAG.

# WRC agenda item 9

Having reviewed the established practice of drawing up WRC agendas regarding agenda items and individual issues related to the Report of the Director of the Radiocommunication Bureau, the following should be indicated.

In accordance with No. 124 of the ITU Convention, the Conference (WRC) shall "consider and approve the report of the Director of the Bureau on the activities of the Sector since the last conference", and for this purpose WRCs add a standing item into a draft agenda

9 to consider and approve the Report of the Director of the Radiocommunication Bureau, in accordance with Article 7 of the Convention:

**9.2 on any difficulties or inconsistencies encountered in the application of the Radio Regulations**

The experience of handling the issues presented by the Director of the Bureau under agenda item 9.2 at WRC-15 showed that administrations faced significant difficulties in their consideration. Such difficulties arise from the lack of time for studying and developing an appropriate position, both at the level of administrations and at the level of regional organizations.

Bearing in mind that the issues identified by the Director of the Bureau regarding the difficulties and inconsistencies encountered in the application of the Radio Regulations are of practical importance for the activities of the Bureau, it is proposed that they should be considered as early as possible, i.e. since the time such difficulties have been identified. Various mechanisms can be used for this purpose, for example, consideration in the RRB or in the relevant ITU-R SGs and/or their working parties in accordance with their respective scopes and competences.

In addition, one of the measures that will help administrations prepare for consideration of agenda item 9.2 at WRC is the timely publication of the Director's Report on the difficulties and inconsistencies encountered in the application of the Radio Regulations.

## *Proposals*

*1. To recommend the Director of the Bureau to submit issues on difficulties or inconsistencies encountered in the application of the Radio Regulations in the timeframe between two WRCs to the RRB and/or ITU-R SGs for consideration in accordance with their respective scopes and competences, as well as on unresolved difficulties to CPM for information;*

*2. To recommend to publish in all official ITU languages the final Report of the Director on unresolved difficulties or inconsistencies encountered in the application of the Radio Regulations, which require consideration by the Conference, preferably five months prior to the opening of the Conference.*

ANNEX

RESOLUTION ITU-R 2-8

**Conference Preparatory Meeting**

(1993-1995-1997-2000-2003-2007-2012-2015-2019)

The ITU Radiocommunication Assembly,

*considering*

*a)* that the duties and functions of the Radiocommunication Assembly, in preparing for World Radiocommunication Conferences (WRCs), are stated in Articles 13 of the ITU Constitution and 8 of the ITU Convention, and in the relevant parts of the General Rules of conferences, assemblies and meetings of the Union;

*b)* that special arrangements are necessary for such preparations,

*resolves*

1 that a Conference Preparatory Meeting (CPM) shall be convened and organized on the basis of the following principles:

– that CPM should be permanent;

– that it should address topics on the agenda of the immediately forthcoming conference and make provisional preparations for the subsequent conference;

– that invitations to participate should be sent to all Member States of ITU and to Radiocommunication Sector Members;

– that documents should be distributed to all Member States of ITU and to Radiocommunication Sector Members wishing to participate in the CPM, taking into account Resolution 167 (Rev. Busan, 2014) of the Plenipotentiary Conference;

– that the terms of reference of CPM should include the updating, rationalization, presentation and discussion of material from Radiocommunication Study Groups, together with consideration of new material submitted to it, including contributions on the review of existing WRC Resolutions, Recommendations and contributions, if available, by Member States with contributions concerning the Agenda for the next and subsequent WRCs. These contributions should be included in an Annex to the CPM Report for information only;

2 that the scope of CPM shall be to prepare a consolidated report to be used in support of the work for World Radiocommunication Conferences, based on:

– contributions from administrations, the Radiocommunication Study Groups (see also No. 156 of the Convention) and other sources (see Article 19 of the Convention) concerning the regulatory, technical, operational and procedural matters to be considered by such conferences;

– the inclusion, to the extent possible, of reconciled differences in approaches as contained in the source material, or, in the case where the approaches cannot be reconciled, the inclusion of the differing views and their justification;

3 that the working methods shall be as presented in Annex 1;

4 that guidelines for preparation of the draft CPM Report are presented in Annex 2.

Annex 1

**Working methods for the Conference Preparatory Meeting**

1 Studies of regulatory, technical, operational and procedural matters will be undertaken by the Study Groups, as appropriate.

2 CPM will normally hold two sessions during the interval between WRCs.

2.1 The first session will be for the purpose of coordinating the work programmes of the relevant ITU‑R Study Groups, and preparing a draft structure for the CPM Report, based on the agenda for the next two WRCs, and for taking into account any directives which may have come from the previous WRC. This first session will be of short duration (in general, no more than two days) and will normally be held straight after the end of the preceding WRC). The Study Group Chairmen and Vice-Chairmen will be invited to participate.

2.2 The first session will identify issues for study in preparation for the next WRC and, to the extent necessary, for the subsequent WRC. These issues should be derived from the draft and provisional Conference agendas and should, as far as possible, be self-contained and independent. For each issue a single ITU‑R group (which could be a Study Group, Task Group or Working Party, etc.) should be identified to take responsibility for the preparatory work, inviting input and/or participation from other concerned[[1]](#footnote-1)\* ITU‑R groups as necessary. As far as possible, existing groups should be used for this purpose, with new groups being established only where this is considered to be necessary.

2.3 The first session, under certain circumstances, may decide to establish a Working Party of the CPM to deal with regulatory and procedural issues, if identified.

2.4 The second session will be for the purpose of preparing the report for the next WRC. The second session will be of adequate duration to accomplish the necessary work (at least one week but not exceeding two weeks). It will be scheduled to allow publication of the Final Report in the six official languages of the Union six months before the next WRC. The deadline for submission of contributions *where translation is required* is two months prior to the second session of the CPM.The deadline for submission of contributions *not requiring translation* is 1600 hours UTC, 14 calendar days prior to the start of the meeting.

2.5 Meetings of the ITU‑R groups identified (i.e. the responsible groups) should be scheduled to facilitate maximum participation by all interested members, avoiding as far as possible any overlap of meetings that might have an adverse impact on the effective participation of Member States.

2.5bis Responsible groups shall identify new issues regarding matters of advance publication, coordination, notification and recording procedures of the Radio Regulations for frequency assignments pertaining to space services in accordance with Resolution 86 (Rev. WRC-07), currently addressed under standing Agenda item 7, not later than their next to last meeting prior to the second session of the CPM, for Members States and regional telecommunication organisations to have sufficient time to establish their position and prepare contributions for the second session of the CPM.

2.5ter The groups should base their output on existing material plus new contributions. The final reports of the responsible groups may be submitted directly to the CPM process, normally at the CPM Management Team meeting, or exceptionally via the relevant Study Group.

2.6 In order to facilitate the understanding by all participants of the contents of the draft CPM Report, an executive summary for each issue (see § 2.4 above) will be developed by the responsible group and used by BR for informing the regional groups throughout that WRC study cycle, with the final summary being prepared for the final draft CPM text by the responsible group and included in the CPM Report.

3 The work of CPM will be directed by a Chairman and Vice‑Chairmen. The Chairman will be responsible for preparing the report to the next WRC. The Chairman and Vice‑Chairmen of CPM are eligible to serve for only one term in their respective offices[[2]](#footnote-2)1. Procedures for appointment of a Chairman and Vice‑Chairmen of CPM are to follow those for Chairmen and Vice‑Chairmen as found in Resolution ITU‑R 15.

4 The Chairman or CPM may appoint Chapter Rapporteurs to assist in guiding the development of the text that will form the basis of the CPM Report, and to help with the consolidation of texts from the responsible groups into a cohesive draft CPM Report.

5 The CPM Chairman, the Vice-Chairmen and the Chapter Rapporteurs will be called the CPM Steering Committee.

6 The Chairman shall convene a meeting of the CPM Steering Committee together with the Chairmen of the responsible groups and the Study Group Chairmen. This meeting (called the CPM Management Team meeting) will consolidate the output from the responsible groups into the draft CPM Report, which will be an input document to the second session of CPM.

7 The consolidated 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.

8 Every effort shall be made to ensure that the volume of the final CPM Report is kept to a minimum. To this end, responsible groups are urged to maximize the use of references to approved ITU‑R Recommendations and Reports, as appropriate, in preparing CPM texts.

9 In relation to working arrangements, CPM shall be considered as an ITU meeting in accordance with No. 172 of the Constitution.

10 In preparing for CPM, maximum use should be made of electronic means for the distribution of contributions to participants.

11 The other working arrangements shall be in accordance with the relevant provisions of Resolution ITU‑R 1.

Annex 2

**Guidelines for preparation of the draft CPM Report**

**NOC**

**\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**

1. \* A concerned ITU‑R group may be either a contributing group on a specific item, or an interested group that will follow the work on a specific issue and act as appropriate. [↑](#footnote-ref-1)
2. 1 Commencing with the study period immediately after WRC‑15. [↑](#footnote-ref-2)