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| **Radiocommunication Assembly (RA-19)Sharm el-Sheikh, Egypt, 21-25 October 2019** |  |
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| **PLENARY MEETING** | **Document RA19/PLEN/14-E** |
| **25 September 2019** |
| **Original: English** |
| United States of America |
| PROPOSED REVISION TO RESOLUTION ITU-R 15-6 |
| Appointment and maximum term of office for Chairmen and Vice Chairmen of Radiocommunication Study Groups, the Coordination Committee for Vocabulary and of the Radiocommunication Advisory Group |
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Introduction

Through this proposed revision of Resolution ITU-R 15-6, and pursuant to Article 8 No. 137A of the ITU Convention, the United States requests the Radiocommunication Assembly (RA) to instruct the Radiocommunication Advisory Group (RAG) to initiate a comprehensive review regarding the merits and effectiveness of extending the maximum term of office of Chairmen and Vice-Chairmen of Study Groups to include Chairmen/Vice-Chairmen of associated Working Parties.

Pending the RAG review and deliberations during the 2020-2023 study period, the implementation of any proposed revisions are subject to RA-23 adoption.

The United States recognizes that additional revisions to Resolutions ITU-R 1, 4, and possibly others may also be needed. At this time, the request to RA-19 is simply to initiate the process through the RAG, and let the RAG conduct its work.

A reasonable approach to initiate this request is to insert the “*instructs the RAG*” in the pertinent Resolution, which is Res. ITU-R 15-6; and assign the Resolution to the RAG for its consideration.

Justification and rationale

The United States’ request is prompted by several factors that should be taken into consideration by RA-19, and the RAG during the next study period. The following is a list of issues for consideration:

**• Gender and Regional representation:** At this time, gender balance within the ITU-R Working Parties is non-existent. The lack of, or minimal turnover among the leadership prevents the BR to achieve the goals of gender and regional balance consistent with Resolution 166 (Rev. Busan, 2014).

**• Lack of opportunities for emerging leaders:** Currently, there are 9 term-limited opportunities as chair across the Study Groups, CCV, RAG and CPM. There are also many term-limited vice-chair opportunities. In most Study Groups, the roles/responsibilities of the Vice-Chairs are undefined; and therefore the vice-chair positions do not necessarily afford the Vice-Chairs opportunities at developing leadership qualities. An additional 21 leadership positions would become available, if the Resolution is extended to encompass Working Party chairs as well with additional opportunities where Working Party Vice-Chairs are utilized. This extension would provide ample opportunities for emerging leaders in the ICT and telecommunications regulatory environment, especially from developing countries, to demonstrate their skills, and to learn from the expertise of Past Chairs. It also provides for training and mentoring opportunities, and would add to the number of individuals qualified for other leadership positions at higher platforms, such as a WRC, RA, Plenipotentiary conference, etc. Again, the lack of, or minimal turnover among the Working Party chairs limits opportunities for the promotion of emerging ICT leaders.

**• 2-term limit:** A 2-term limit (i.e. 8-years in total) is sufficient in most types of organizations. ITU tradition makes it difficult (if not impossible) to challenge the continued tenure of a Working Party Chair. During the 2020-2023 study period, some Working Party chairs may be approaching their 20th anniversary. A 2-term limit would allow opportunities for the current leadership to serve as “Active” Past Chairs (or Emeritus Past Chairs) with mentoring roles and other responsibilities.

**• Waiver Availability:** The United States fully recognizes that certain special expertise may be required for some of the Working Parties. In some cases, the number of qualified experts may be limited, or a particular expertise may be needed that may not be readily available. During the RAG’s deliberations, the United States proposes a discussion to include a “waiver” approach, whereby a Study Group may exempt one (or more) of its Working Parties from the proposed term limit with appropriate justification. The United States recognizes that a waiver procedure would allow the Study Groups to continue to administer their internal structure appropriately.

**• T-sector:** As part of the deliberations through the RAG, the United States wishes to inform that the ITU-T has not encountered any difficulties in extending the 2-term limit to both the Study Group Chairs and Working Party Chairs. This approach allows the ITU-T to provide a broader and more diverse pool of leaders to implement the ITU’s “Bridging the Standardization Gap” program.

Proposal

1) Under the provisions of No. 137A of the ITU Convention, the United States requests RA-19 to instruct the RAG to undertake a comprehensive evaluation regarding the merits and effectiveness of extending the maximum term of office of Chairmen and Vice-Chairmen of Study Groups to include Chairmen/Vice-Chairmen of associated Working Parties.

2) As part of this evaluation, RA-19 should also instruct the RAG to develop the modalities as to how the revision may be implemented (i.e. which ITU-R Resolution(s) must be revised, how, etc.).

3) If adopted, the United States requests RA-19 to assign the proposed revision of Resolution ITU-R 15-6 along with any additional instructions and output to the meeting of ITU-R RAG20 in order to initiate the work. RAG20 is tentatively scheduled for 6-9 April 2020.

4) The RAG is at liberty to develop its own working methods to complete this task (i.e. Correspondence Group, e-Meetings, etc.), while allowing sufficient time for Member States and Sector Members to review the RAG’s advice in order to prepare for Contributions and proposals for deliberation and potential adoption at RA-23.

REVISION to Resolution ITU‑R 15-6

Appointment and maximum term of office for Chairmen and Vice‑Chairmen of
Radiocommunication Study Groups, the Coordination Committee for
Vocabulary and of the Radiocommunication Advisory Group

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

The ITU Radiocommunication Assembly,

considering

*a)* that Article 12 of the ITU Constitution sets out the functions and structure of the Radiocommunication Sector, including references in Nos. 84 and 84A to work through Study Groups and the Radiocommunication Advisory Group;

*b)* that No. 133 and No. 148 of the Convention provide for the establishment of Radiocommunication Study Groups;

*c)* that No. 149 of the Convention and other related provisions indicate the nature of the work of the Study Groups;

*d)* that No. 242 of the Convention requires the Radiocommunication Assembly to appoint Chairmen and Vice-Chairmen of Study Groups, taking account of competence and equitable geographical distribution and the need to promote more efficient participation by the developing countries;

*e)* that a specific time-limit on the term of office would permit the introduction of new ideas on a periodic basis, while at the same time give an opportunity for Study Group Chairmen and Vice‑Chairmen to be appointed from different Member States;

*f)* that No. 244 of the Convention provides a procedure for a Study Group to elect a Chairman in the interval between two assemblies or conferences when a Chairman is unable to carry out his duties;

*g)* that provisions for the Radiocommunication Advisory Group (RAG) have been incorporated into Article 11A of the Convention;

*h)* that No. 160G of the Convention states that RAG shall adopt its own working procedures compatible with those adopted by the Radiocommunication Assembly,

pursuant to

Resolution 166 (Rev. Busan, 2014) of the Plenipotentiary Conference, on the number of Vice-Chairmen of Sector Advisory Groups, Study Groups and other groups,

noting

*a)* Article 19 of the Convention “Participation of Entities and Organizations in the Union’s Activities”;

*b)* Resolution 58 (Rev. Busan, 2014) of the Plenipotentiary Conference, on strengthening of relations between ITU and regional telecommunication organizations and regional preparations for the Plenipotentiary Conference;

*c)* in particular, *resolves* 2 of Resolution 58 (Rev. Busan, 2014) of the Plenipotentiary Conference;

*d)* Resolution ITU‑R 48, on strengthening the regional presence in radiocommunication study group work,

taking into account

*a)* that a maximum time in office of two terms for Chairmen and Vice-Chairmen for the Study Groups, the Coordination Committee for Vocabulary (CCV) and RAG (hereinafter referred to as Chairmen and Vice-Chairmen) provides for a reasonable amount of stability while providing the opportunity for different individuals to serve in these capacities;

*b)* item 7) under *resolves* in Resolution 166 (Rev. Busan, 2014) of the Plenipotentiary Conference, concerning the application of the guidelines mentioned in that resolution, to the extent practicable, to the Conference Preparatory Meeting (CPM) in ITU‑R,

resolves

1 that candidates for the posts of Chairmen and Vice-Chairmen should be identified, by Member States of ITU and by Radiocommunication Sector Members; the procedures to be followed should be as given in Annex 1, in particular § 3; the qualifications required for such posts are given in Annex 2, and the guidelines for appointment of the optimum numbers of Vice-Chairmen of the Radiocommunication Study Groups, Coordination Committee for Vocabulary and Radiocommunication Advisory Group are given in Annex 3;

2 that candidates for the posts of Chairmen and Vice-Chairmen should be identified, taking into account that for each post the Assembly will appoint the Chairman and those Vice-Chairmen deemed necessary;

3 that nominations for the posts of Chairmen and Vice-Chairmen should be accompanied by a biographical profile highlighting the qualifications of the individuals proposed, including the information requested in Annex 2; the Director will circulate the profiles to the Heads of Delegation present at the Assembly;

4 that the term of office for Chairmen or Vice-Chairmen should not exceed two intervals between consecutive assemblies;

5 that the interval between assemblies during which a Chairman or Vice-Chairman is elected under No. 244 of the Convention does not count towards the term of office;

6 that the period in office in one appointment (e.g. as a Vice-Chairman) does not count towards the period in office for another appointment (e.g. as a Chairman) and that steps should be taken to provide some continuity between Chairmen and Vice-Chairmen,instructs the Radiocommunication Advisory Group

1 to evaluate the effectiveness of extending the maximum time in office of two terms of Chairmen and Vice Chairmen of Study Groups, to include Chairmen and Vice-Chairmen of their associated Working Parties;

2 to consider and recommend a waiver process for Chairmen and Vice Chairmen of Working Parties beyond the two term limit, taking into account the priority, urgency and time-scale for the completion of the studies related to the Study Group’s work programme;3 to ensure that the guidelines presented in Annex 3 include Chairmen and Vice Chairmen of Working Parties, taking into consideration regional and gender balance, consistent with Resolution 166 (Rev. Busan, 2014);

4 to consider a procedure for the qualifications and appointment of Chairmen and Vice Chairmen for the Working Parties of Study Groups, including proposed modifications to Annex 2 if needed;

5 to report to the Director Radiocommunication Bureau and the next Radiocommunication Assembly on the implementation of the revisions to this Resolution and other associated Resolutions as appropriate.

Annex 1

Procedure for the appointment of Chairmen and Vice-Chairmen of the
Radiocommunication Study Groups, the Coordination Committee for
Vocabulary and the Radiocommunication Advisory Group

1 The Director of the Radiocommunication Bureau will request Member States and Sector Members to submit proposals for candidates for the posts of the Chairmen and Vice-Chairmen of the Study Groups, and the Coordination Committee for Vocabulary (CCV) and the Radiocommunication Advisory Group (RAG).

2 In order to help the Radiocommunication Assembly appoint Chairmen/Vice-Chairmen, Member States and Sector Members are to indicate suitable candidates to the Director of the Radiocommunication Bureau preferably three months, but no later than two weeks, before the opening of the Radiocommunication Assembly.

3 In nominating suitable candidates, ITU‑R Sector Members should carry out prior consultations with the administration/Member State concerned, in order to avoid any possible disagreement in regard to such nomination.

4 On the basis of proposals received, the Director will circulate to members the list of candidates. The list of candidates should be accompanied by an indication of the qualifications of each candidate as given in Annex 2.

5 On the basis of this document and any relevant comments received, the Heads of Delegation, at a suitable time during the Assembly, should be invited to prepare, in consultation with the Director, a consolidated list of designated Study Group Chairmen and Vice-Chairmen to be submitted in a document to the Radiocommunication Assembly for final approval.

Annex 2

Qualifications of the Chairmen and Vice-Chairmen

As regards competence, the following qualifications *inter alia* appear to be of paramount importance when appointing Chairmen and Vice-Chairmen:

– knowledge and experience;

– continuity in participation in the relevant Study Group or, for Chairmen and Vice-Chairmen of the Coordination Committee for Vocabulary and of the Radiocommunication Advisory Group, in the ITU Radiocommunication Sector;

– managerial skills;

\_ availability.

Particular reference to the above qualifications should be included in the biographical profile to be circulated by the Director.

Annex 3

Guidelines for appointment of the optimum numbers of Vice-Chairmen for the
Radiocommunication Advisory Group, the Coordination Committee
for Vocabulary and Study Groups

1 Pursuant to Resolution 166 (Rev. Busan, 2014) of the Plenipotentiary Conference and No. 242 of the Convention, equitable geographical distribution among ITU regions and the need to promote more effective participation by the developing countries, gender balance and expertise should be taken into account[[1]](#footnote-1)1.

2 The workload should be a factor in determining the appropriate number of Vice-Chairmen to ensure that every aspect within the purview of RAG, CCV and the Study Group is fully managed.

3 The total number of Vice-Chairmen proposed by any administration should be fairly reasonable, so as to observe the principle of equitable distribution of posts among the Member States concerned such that each region should propose one and at most two individuals, for Vice-Chairmen of an Advisory or Study Group.

4 Member States in each ITU region[[2]](#footnote-2)2 are encouraged, when proposing individual experienced professionals for the positions, to fully observe the principle of equitable geographical distribution among ITU regions, and the need to promote more efficient participation by the developing countries.

5 Regional representation in the Advisory Groups, Study Groups and other groups of all three Sectors should be taken into account, such that no single individual may hold more than one vice-chairmanship position in these groups in any one Sector, and only in exceptional cases hold such a position in more than one Sector[[3]](#footnote-3)3.

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1. 1 For those regions consisting of numerous administrations and with diverse economic and technological developments within the region, to the extent possible the number of representatives of those regions may be increased, as appropriate. [↑](#footnote-ref-1)
2. 2 Taking into account Resolution 58 (Rev. Busan, 2014) of the Plenipotentiary Conference regarding the six principal regional telecommunication organizations, namely the Asia-Pacific Telecommunity (APT), the European Conference of Postal and Telecommunications Administrations (CEPT), the Inter-American Telecommunications Commission (CITEL), the African Telecommunications Union (ATU), the Council of Arab Ministers of Telecommunication and Information represented by the Secretariat-General of the League of Arab States (LAS) and the Regional Commonwealth in the field of Communications (RCC). [↑](#footnote-ref-2)
3. 3 The criterion mentioned in this paragraph should not prevent a Vice-Chairman of a given Advisory Group or a Vice-Chairman of a given Study Group from holding positions of Chairman or Vice-Chairman of a given working party or as Rapporteur or Associate Rapporteur for any group under the mandate of that Sector group. [↑](#footnote-ref-3)