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| **Radiocommunication Advisory Group Geneva, 15-17 April 2019** | |  | |
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|  | **Document RAG19/TEMP/2-E** | | |
| **16 April 2019** | | |
| **English only** | | |
| Chairman, RAG | | | |
| twentY-sixTH meeting of the  radiocommunication advisory group  DRAFT  SUMMARY OF CONCLUSIONS | | | |

SUMMARY OF CONCLUSIONS

| **Agenda Item** | **Subject** | **Conclusions** |
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| 1 | Opening remarks | The meeting was officially opened by the Chairman, Mr. Daniel Obam (Kenya). The ITU Secretary-general delivered his opening remarks and called on all participants to work with focus on the forthcoming Conference in Sharm el-Sheikh scheduled to take place from October 27 until November 22, 2019. The Director of the BDT made her opening remarks and welcomed participants to this session, stressing her willingness to cooperate with the Radiocommunication Bureau. The BR Director also welcomed all participants to this first RAG meeting of the cycle and stressed the role of the RAG in providing advice to the Director on the way forward to better responding to membership requests in a more efficient and effective manner.  The Chairman congratulated the SG and the two Directors present and expressed his appreciation to Member States and Sector Members for their contribution to the work of the RAG. He further invited RAG vice-chairs and RRB members present in the room to introduce themselves. |
| 2 | Approval of the agenda  *(Doc. RAG19/ADM/1(Rev.1))* | The draft agenda in Doc. RAG19/ADM/1(Rev.1) was adopted without changes. |
| 3 | PP-18 results | RAG noted the report on PP-18 results, with emphasis on issues relating to the work of the ITU-R sector, including the Strategic and financial Plans for the period 2020- 2023. |
| 4 | Council-19 related matters  *(Doc. RAG19/1 + Add.2)* | RAG noted the continued progress on free online access to ITU-R publications, as well as the efforts made in the field of Conformance and interoperability.  RAG agreed with the Director’s proposal to change the structure of the report that is being presented to the meeting, with the objective of maintaining some degree of consistency with the other ITU reporting documents, particularly those submitted to Council with similar information. RAG, however, reminded the Bureau that clear distinction should be made among the reports as they do not address the same audience and in consideration of the different mandates.  RAG noted the information provided in the Director’s report on cost recovery for satellite network fillings and called on the Bureau to inform WRC-19 on the excessive number of submissions under Article 6 of Appendix 30B.  RAG noted the draft budget of the Bureau for the period 2020-2021 and commented on the expenditure level, which was explained that it is based on expenditure incurred as of 28 February 2019 and that 2019 will certainly be a very busy year for the BR. The meeting noted the report on the Space protocol following the decision of PP-18. RAG also encouraged the bureau to rationalize its participation in the Regional preparatory meetings through enhanced use of remote participation and other electronic modes of participation. The meeting also highlighted on early recruitment of newly budgeted positions in order to ensure that staff members recruited for the said positions would be able to take on their duties on the first day of 2020, which will correspond to the budget availability. |
| 5 | Implementation of WRC-15 Decisions  *(Docs. RAG19/1)* | RAG noted actions undertaken so far by the Bureau to implement WRC-15 decisions relating to both space and terrestrial services, in particular the software development activities implementing Resolutions 907 and 908. RAG also highlighted the satisfaction expressed by those who have started utilizing the systems developed by the Bureau and encouraged the Bureau to continue in this direction cautiously in order to ensure that the entire membership is carried along. RAG noted that the Bureau is now able to make most notices of satellite networks available “as received” within 7 days against the 30 days as prescribed in Resolution 55 (Rev.WRC-15).  RAG considered Doc. RAG19/13 from Japan and noted the proposals contained. The document highlighted the importance and effectiveness in the use of online submission tools and urged the Bureau to accelerate the process by implementing the tools for all types of comments and communications and to modernize the webpages dedicated to space services on its website, based on the success achieved so far with Resolution 908.  RAG expressed its appreciation to the Administration of Japan for its continued support and contributions to the implementation of Resolution 908, which has allowed the BR to recruit web developers in addition to a full time engineer seconded by the administration of Japan to the ITU to assist in this project. |
| 6 | RA/WRC-19 preparation  *(Docs. RAG19/1)* | RAG noted the report on the preparations for RA-19/WRC-19 and the successful completion of CPM19-2. The meeting also recognized the efforts being made by the Bureau in assisting Member States in their preparation for the Conference by attending the Regional preparatory meetings to explain the intricacies of some of the agenda items. RAG was also reminded that the RA-19 and WRC-19 will be conducted in a paperless manner, in line with the provisions of PP-18, Decision 5, Annex 2. RAG also noted the success of two previous inter-regional workshops organized in Geneva in preparation for the forthcoming Conference and the next session scheduled to take place from 4-6 September 2019 in Geneva. The meeting appreciated the Bureau’s participation in the regional preparatory activities and invited the Bureau to carefully consider its level of participation at the initial Regional preparatory meetings of the inter-WRC cycle with a view to focusing more on the final meetings when substantive discussions will be taking place. RAG was informed that the Host Country Agreement for the holding of the RA-19/WRC-19/CPM23-1 in Egypt was signed on 25 March, 2019 and that all arrangements are now on track.  RAG noted some issues relating to ITU-R Resolution 2 and urged Member States to reflect on the way forward. It was proposed that a correspondence group be established to review and possibly propose revisions to the resolution to be submitted to RA-19. RAG applauded the proposal to appoint Mr. Alexander Vassiliev as the Chairman of the Correspondence Group and approved the Terms of Reference of the Group (see Annex 2). |
| 7 | Study Group activities  *(Docs. RAG19/1(Add.1), 14, 17,18,19)* | RAG noted the report on Study Group activities, in particular the progress achieved in its work and in the use of modern tools. The meeting also noted the progress made in the preparatory work carried by the respective Study Groups for RA-19 and WRC-19 and even beyond. It also noted that the increased participation in Study Group meetings, as well as the heavy schedule of ITU meetings combined with limited availability of meeting rooms at the ITU secretariat is continuing to pose logistical challenges for the scheduling of meetings of the ITU-R Study Groups and their associated Working Parties and sub-groups. RAG noted Document 17 from the Russian Federation and indicated that the Russian Federation might consider submitting it to RA-19 for consideration. RAG also noted Document 14 from Japan.  RAG further noted documents 18 and 19 from the Russian Federation and indicated that the Russian Federation might consider submitting them to RA-19 for further consideration. |
| 8 | Draft Rolling Operational plan for 2019-2022 *(Docs. RAG19/1(Add.2)* | RAG noted the draft rolling Operational Plan of the ITU-R for the period 2020-2023 (as included in Annex 1), and commented on the outcomes and outcome indicators. The meeting called for review of section 5.1. and called on the Bureau to review what is being measured and how best the items contained in the report could be reflected in the future operational plans. RAG also noted that the approach followed is the one approved by the PP-18 in the Strategic plan of the Union, which is the basis of the Operational plan. RAG requested the Director to review the proposed draft operational plan for 2020 if possible with new proposals.  RAG further noted the proposed draft rolling Operational Plan of the General Secretariat for 2020-2023. |
| 9 | BR information system  *(Doc. RAG19/1))* | RAG noted the progress made by the BR in software development. The meeting further recognized efforts by the BR in migrating existing applications to modern platforms. RAG applauded efforts made by the BR in modernizing its software systems and providing more user friendly interfaces wherever possible. RAG also noted the importance that the Bureau is attaching to the use of modern applications to facilitate the work of membership.  The meeting noted with appreciation a number of software developments and enhancements made by BR. For terrestrial services these include the introduction of online free of charge HFBC schedules and software, integration of GE06 agreement Article 4 processing into TerRaSys, extension of web tools with terrestrial data, calculations and correspondences, development of GIS tools and some others. For space services, the most important achievements are the progress on the BR Space Information Systems roadmap and the release of the operational version of the on-line application “Satellite Interference Reporting and Resolution System”. |
| 10 | Inter-sector coordination  *(Docs. RAG19/1, 2, 3,5, 6, 7,8,9,10,21)* | RAG noted the information contained in addendum of the Director’s report concerning ITU-R cooperation with ITU‑D and ITU-T, as well as with international and regional organizations.  RAG also considered the liaison statements on Inter-sector coordination contained in Docs. RAG19/2 from ITU-T Study Group 5, RAG 19 /3 from ITU-R working Party 5A, 5B and 5C to ITU-T 2,5,9,12,13,15,16 and RAG, RAG19/4 from TDAG to Chairman RAG19, RAG/5 from ITU-T Study Group 5 to ITU-R working parties 1,A, 1B and 1C, RAG/6 from ITU-T study group 5 to ITU-R Working Parties 5A, 5B and 5C, RAG19/7 from Chairman inter–Sector Coordination Group(ISCG) to RAG for consideration, RAG-9/8 from TSAG to RAG on updated mapping on common interest areas, RAG-19/9 from ITU-T Study Group 9 to RAG, RAG-19/10 from TSAG to RAG for review and possible feedback and RAG-19 which has summarized the liaison statements contained in this report.  RAG urged study group counsellors to continue to draw the attention of participants of their respective study groups to the issues highlighted in the Liaison statements and did not recommend to respond directly to the liaison statements. RAG noted Doc. 21 including the mapping developed which was submitted after the starting of the meeting and therefore did not provide ample time for revision. |
| 11 | Membership outreach activities  *(Docs. RAG19/1, 15,16)* | RAG noted the continued effort by the BR in providing free online access to its publications. The different types of BR publications and their related approach with regards to access was explained. RAG also noted the work carried out by the BR with regards to assistance to membership and urged the Bureau to continue the good effort. RAG considered Doc. 15 from China that raised two principal questions: a) training for Nano and Pico satellite operators; b) development of a handbook on this topic. The meeting advised the administration of China on the following actions: a) Introduce Nano and Pico satellite operators to ITU workshops and seminars where these issues are being considered. RAG also noted that the ITU is willing and is at the disposal of the administration of China to discuss their training needs and structure the best possible approach; b) Submit its proposal to the relevant ITU-R Study Groups for consideration of establishing a Handbook for Nano and Pico satellites.  RAG also supported the proposal from Brazil to maintain the archive of recorded sessions of the WRS, including its related workshop activities, to enable membership to review the content at a later stage. The BR director offered to consider this possibility. However, he mentioned that not all the sessions were carried out in rooms with recording facilities.  RAG considered Doc. 16 from Cuba and noted their concerns with regards to access to software tools developed by the BR with emphasis on the tool developed for navigating the Radio Regulations. RAG noted the fact that this type of tools is not normally included in the free online category. Nevertheless, RAG requested the Director to take a closer a look at this request and evaluate options that could accommodate developing countries and facilitate their acquisition of such tools.  RAG noted the request for the harmonization of ITU websites, an activity that the Deputy Secretary General is coordinating within the secretariat. |
| 12 | Date of next meeting | The 27th meeting of the RAG is planned to take place from 6 to 9 April 2020. |
| 13 | Any other business |  |

ANNEXES:

ANNEX 1: Draft ITU-R 4-year Rolling Operational Plan (source: Doc. RAG19/1 Add.2)

ANNEX 2: Terms of reference of the RAG correspondence group on the review and possible revision of Resolution ITU-R 2-7 (source: Doc. TEMP/1Rev.1)

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