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| **Radiocommunication Study Groups** |  |
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| Annex 8 to Working Party 5A Chairman’s Report |
| draft CPM text for WRC-23 agenda item 9.1, topic c) |
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CHAPTER 5

General issues

(Agenda items 2, 4 and 9.1 topics a), b), c) and d))

Agenda item 9.1(9.1-c)

# 5/9.1-c *Study the use of International Mobile Telecommunication system for fixed wireless broadband in the frequency bands allocated to the fixed services on primary basis, in accordance with Resolution 175 (WRC-19)*

Resolution **175 (WRC-19)** – *Use of International Mobile Telecommunication systems for fixed wireless broadband in the frequency bands allocated to the fixed service on primary basis*

(**WP 5A and WP 5C[[1]](#footnote-1)\*** / **WP 1B, WP 4A, WP 4C, WP 5D, WP 6A, WP 7B, WP 7C, WP 7D**)

# Summary of the results of ITU-R studies

The Chairmen of WPs 5A and 5C provided examples for some relevant published ITU-R Recommendations, Reports, and Handbook of fixed wireless access (see Doc. [5A/19](https://www.itu.int/md/R19-WP5A-C-0019/en) – [5C/13](https://www.itu.int/md/R19-WP5C-C-0013/en)). When these initial publications were developed, the expectations for fixed wireless applications were very different than those of today, including fixed wireless access, backhaul, core, transport and others. Therefore, WPs 5A and 5C found it timely to progress this work by revising the existing relevant publications and to develop any new ones as required to reflect the new technological capabilities and approaches of fixed wireless applications, according to input contributions received.

Input contributions were received proposing updates to some of these existing ITU-R Recommendations/Reports. Other input contributions proposed new ITU-R Reports and Recommendations to address required studies by WRC-23 agenda item 9.1, topic c). All input contributions were introduced in the joint activity of WPs 5A and 5C but were not fully discussed and no agreement was found on a single way forward. In the view of the above, the following two approaches are proposed:

Approach 1

Proceed with development of new ITU-R Recommendation(s), Report(s) and Handbook through submission of contribution to the subsequent relevant ITU-R meetings in that regard. Such a contribution should include arguments that current ITU-R Recommendation(s), Report(s) and Handbook either do not address or do not adequately address the objectives of WRC-23 agenda item 9.1, topic c), as referred to in the above-mentioned Resolution.

Approach 2

Proceed with the revision of Recommendation(s), Report(s) and Handbook through submission of contribution to relevant ITU-R subsequent meetings. Such a contribution should include arguments that current Recommendation(s), Report(s) and Handbook cover partially or adequately the objectives of WRC-23 agenda item 9.1, topic c) as referred to in Resolution **175 (WRC-19)**. Upon receipt of the above-mentioned contributions WPs 5A and 5C would proceed accordingly.

The discussions during this study cycle focused on the meaning of fixed wireless broadband (FWB) despite the clarifications provided by the Chairmen of WPs 5A and 5C (Document [5A/19](https://www.itu.int/md/R19-WP5A-C-0019/en) – [5C/13](https://www.itu.int/md/R19-WP5C-C-0013/en)).

There are a number of ITU-R publications, covering a variety of technologies and interfaces that could be also of relevance for the use of IMT-technologies for fixed wireless applications including backhaul, core, transport and others which need further consideration.

The published ITU-R Recommendations and Reports on various types of fixed wireless and Handbook on “Fixed wireless access” are summarized in the “[Guide to the use of ITU-R texts relating to the land mobile service, including wireless access in the fixed service](https://www.itu.int/oth/R0A06000001/en)”, available on the [WP 5A](https://www.itu.int/ITU-R/go/rwp5A) and [WP 5C](https://www.itu.int/ITU-R/go/rwp5C) web pages, which can be considered relevant to WRC-23 agenda item 9.1, topic c). This list is non-exhaustive as this roster of publications addresses some, but not all types of fixed wireless applications (backhaul, core, transport and others).

As a starting point, proposals were received to revise and update Recommendations ITU-R F.1401‑1 and ITU-R F.1763-1, so that they are more reflective of the current state of technology including IMT technology for broadband fixed wireless access. Proposals were also received to revise other relevant F-Series Recommendations/Reports fixed wireless applications (access and backhaul). Other proposals of new ITU-R Reports and Recommendations (see also Annex 18 to Doc. [5A/221](https://www.itu.int/md/R19-WP5A-C-0221/en)) with regards to the new capabilities of IMT systems and technologies to support various applications of fixed wireless broadband within the fixed service, including access and backhauling capabilities have been received. All proposals will need further consideration.

Accordingly, a new ITU-R Question may be developed, if necessary, to progress the work on existing or new ITU-R Reports, Recommendations and Handbook. There was also proposal to consider the extension of the study completion date of Question ITU-R 215-4/5, as it is currently 2019.

There was discussion regarding the use of the terms “IMT Technology” and “IMT System”. It was clarified that this topic concerned the fixed wireless applications that use of IMT-technologies in the frequency bands allocated to the fixed service on a primary basis.

Concluding remarks

On the issue of a response to the objectives of Resolution **175 (WRC-19)** there were 2 alternatives:

Alternative 1:

Some Administrations have the view that Resolution **175 (WRC-19)** need to be revised to continue conducting the studies requested by WRC-23 agenda item 9.1, topic c), and the Resolution for WRC‑27, since there was no progress in this study cycle regarding the AI scope and mandates, and there were no discussions on the contents of the proposals by multiple Administrations for new Recommendations/Reports or revising existing publications. In addition, continuing the studies by WRC-27 was agreed by WRC-19 as per the Minutes of the 12th Plenary Meeting in items 28.105 and 28.106 as follow:

 "28.105 … the following text be included in the minutes of the meeting to reflect decisions taken by the conference:

 Agenda item 9.1 “c” invites ITU-R to conduct studies to identify the potential frequency bands for the use of IMT for fixed wireless broadband within the frequency bands allocated to the fixed service on a primary basis. Accordingly, an agenda item for WRC‑27 will be developed to consider those identified bands.”

 28.106 It was so agreed."

In addition, a draft new WRC/ITU-R Resolution was proposed along with a new question to support the future development and use of IMT systems and technologies for broadband fixed wireless applications in the frequency bands allocated to the fixed service on primary basis (see Attachment 1).

Accordingly, the mandate by WRC-23 agenda item 9.1, topic c), was not achieved nor satisfied, and the scope was not addressed, since discussions were only limited to terminologies of FWB meaning and difference between IMT systems and technologies with objections to any progress on the Administrations' proposals.

Alternative 2:

Other Administrations are of the view that there is no need to have any draft new or revised Resolution on this matter in the draft CPM text (see Attachment 2) and doing so would be outside the scope of the Resolution **175 (WRC-19)** *resolves* and consequently is not compliant with Resolution ITU-R 2‑8, Annex 1 (Working methods), § A1.2.8.

Regarding the minutes of WRC-19 referred to above in Alternative 1, they refer to an agreement to include the text proposed by delegate of one administration in the minutes of the conference. This cannot be assumed as a formal decision of the conference to include an agenda item at WRC-27. if this was to be formal decision of the conference, then WRC-19 would have taken a formal decision for example by including a provisional agenda item for WRC-27. Furthermore, conferences are sovereign and this text in the minutes cannot be taken as one conference bounding future conference to take a particular action in this case.

Attachment 1

Draft new Resolution [[XXX] (WRC-23) / ITU-R [XXX]] for consideration and approval by WRC-23 or RA-23 (Parts A and B)

A) "Draft new Resolution XXX for consideration and approval by WRC-23 or RA-23

RESOLUTION XXX

Use of IMT Technologies in the frequency bands allocated
to the fixed service on a primary basis

The World Radiocommunication Conference ([Abu Dhabi or Dubai], 2023),

considering

*a)* that the use of harmonized frequency bands for International Mobile Telecommunications (IMT) systems is desirable in order to achieve the benefits of economies of scale worldwide;

*b)* that the use of IMT systems for fixed broadband can assist in meeting global demands to bridge the digital divide, support the broadband agenda in developing countries and provide cost-effective broadband services to rural and underserved areas,

recognizing

*a)* that Resolution 139 (Rev. Dubai, 2018) of the ITU Plenipotentiary Conference calls for bridging the digital divide worldwide through the use of telecommunications/information and communication technologies to bridge the digital divide and build an inclusive information society;

*b)* that Resolution 37 (Rev. Buenos Aires, 2017) of the World Telecommunication Development Conference calls for bridging the digital divide;

*c)* that the ITU Radiocommunication Sector (ITU-R) Handbook on fixed wireless access addresses the use of early technologies of IMT system for fixed wireless access, and Recommendation ITU-R M.819 contains specific requirements pertaining to fixed wireless access;

*d)* IMT capabilities are emerging rapidly to support integrated access and backhaul solution to facilitate networks deployment,

resolves

to invite ITU Radiocommunication Sector to revise existing, and to develop new, ITU-R Handbooks, Recommendations and Reports on harmonising the use of IMT technologies for broadband fixed wireless applications in the frequency bands allocated to the fixed service on primary basis,

invites administrations

to participate in these studies.

"

B) *[Placeholder for the revised text of Resolution 175 (Rev.WRC-23), [Abu Dhabi or Dubai].]*

Attachment 2

The ITU-R membership may continue studies, taking into account existing and new Study Questions, or revising existing publications, or considering new ITU-R documents, to support the future development of fixed wireless applications including those that use IMT technology in the frequency bands allocated to the fixed service. This activity is already in progress in WP 5A and WP 5C and can continue through the course of work.

Below is an analysis which illustrates why neither an RA Resolution, nor a WRC Resolution such as the one present in Attachment 1, is needed.

Analysis

One contribution received from a Member State proposing a draft new WRC-/ITU-R Resolution. The title and operative parts of that Resolution is reproduced below:

Draft new Resolution WRC-23 / ITU-R

(…)

resolves to invite ITU Radiocommunication Sector

to revise existing, and/or develop new, ITU-R studies, Handbooks, Recommendations and Reports on the use of IMT systems for fixed wireless broadband in the frequency bands allocated to the fixed service on primary basis,

invites administrations

to participate in these studies.

After extensive discussion at several sessions of the responsible ITU-R groups there was no consensus to include the above-mentioned draft new Resolution in the draft CPM text relating to WRC-23 agenda item 9.1, topic c), for the following reasons:

– The ITU-R Study Groups / Working Parties responsible for any agenda item and the associated contributing groups are not eligible to propose any agenda item for the future WRC due to the fact that only the State Members through WRC-23 agenda item 10 could proposed new agenda item to the subsequent WRC.

– Moreover, a detailed analysis of the proposed draft new Resolution was carried out the results of which are summarized below.

The below is a comparison of text from Resolution **175 (WRC-19)** and of text from the proposed draft new Resolution.

Resolution 175 (WRC-19)

(…)

resolves to invite the ITU Radiocommunication Sector

to conduct any necessary studies on the use of IMT systems for fixed wireless broadband in the frequency bands allocated to the fixed service on primary basis, taking into account the relevant ITU‑R studies, Handbooks, Recommendations and Reports,

instructs the Director of the Radiocommunication Bureau

to report to WRC‑23 on the results of these studies,

invites administrations

to participate in these studies in the process of preparation for WRC‑23.

*Draft new Resolution proposed by one Administration*

(…)

resolves to invite ITU Radiocommunication Sector

to revise existing, and/or develop new, ITU-R studies, Handbooks, Recommendations and Reports on the use of IMT systems for fixed wireless broadband in the frequency bands allocated to the fixed service on primary basis,

invites administrations

to participate in these studies.

The proposal from that administration is almost similar to the action being taken by ITU-R pursuant to Resolution **175 (WRC-19)**, namely:

 to conduct any necessary studies on the use of IMT systems for fixed wireless broadband in the frequency bands allocated to the fixed service on primary basis, taking into account the relevant ITU‑R studies, Handbooks, Recommendations and Reports,

Consequently, the ITU-R is already taking necessary actions on the operative part of Resolution **175 (WRC-19)** which is, to a great extent similar to the action proposed in the potential draft new Resolution proposed by that administration

If the proposed draft new Resolution by that administration is submitted to WRC-23, the following course of action would be required:

a) Consensus for the need to have such a draft new Resolution.

b) Modality / vehicle to implement that draft new Resolution.

One possible course of action which could be taken if the proposed draft is agreed by WRC-23 is:

c) the Conference adopt a topic under agenda item 9.1, or

d) the Conference adopt, strictly speaking, a new independent agenda item.

Both of the above approaches mentioned in c) and d) above would lead to the same circumstance that the ITU-R currently facing.

In view of the above, there would be no need to adopt any agenda item as mentioned in c) and d) above.

In regard with the need to have a draft new ITU-R Resolution at RA-23, it is necessary to indicate that the Radiocommunication Assembly Resolution normally dealing with the issue related to all ITU-R Study Groups whereas the subject matter in merely relates to / under the Terms of Reference of Study Group 5.

In regard with the need to have a new question, it is worth to mention that under No. 149A of the ITU Convention:

Quote

149A 1*bis*) The radiocommunication study groups shall also study topics identified in resolutions and recommendations of world radiocommunication conferences. The results of such studies shall be included in recommendations or in the reports prepared in accordance with No. 156 below

Unquote

Consequently, there is no need to have a new question in this regard.

The ITU-R therefore did not agree to include the proposed draft new WRC-23 / ITU-R Resolution in the draft CPM text on WRC-23 agenda item 9.1, topic c).

The proposed draft is attached as Attachment 1 to the draft CPM text on WRC-23 agenda item 9.1, topic c), for information.

1. \* Note: This is a joint activity and a joint plenary may be held if required. WP 5A will provide the draft text on the results of studies to the CPM Chapter co-Rapporteurs. [↑](#footnote-ref-1)