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| **Radiocommunication Advisory GroupGeneva, 25-27 May 2020** | C:\Users\murphy\AppData\Local\Temp\Temp1_ITU logo Entire package.zip\jpg\ITU official logo_blue_RGB.jpg |
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|  | **Document RAG20/13-E** |
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| United States of America |
| RA-19 INSTRUCTIONS ON TERM LIMITS AND TRAINING |

**Background**: Through this contribution, the United States wishes to initiate a dialogue to implement the instructions of the Radiocommunication Assembly 2019 (RA-19) to the Radiocommunication Advisory Group. The instructions are provided in Document [RA19/PLEN/84](https://www.itu.int/md/R19-RA19-C-0084/en) (page 2) and may be viewed as two related topics. The instructions are as follows:

RA-19 instructs the Radiocommunication Advisory Group (RAG), based on proposals from the Member States and Sector Members and in consultation with the Study Group Chairmen, to review the maximum term of office for Chairmen of Radiocommunication Working Parties and report the results of this review back to RA-23.

RA-19 further instructs the RAG, based on proposals from the Member States and Sector Members and in consultation with the Study Group Chairmen, to consider the need to review Resolution ITU-R 1, including the addition of provisions for training newly-elected Study Group Chairmen and Vice-Chairmen.

As part of this dialogue, the RAG is reminded of the United States’ contribution to RA-19 in Document [RA19/PLEN/14](https://www.itu.int/md/R19-RA19-C-0014/en) which contains the “Justification and rationale” to revise 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 the Radiocommunication Advisory Group”.

Document [RA19/PLEN/14](https://www.itu.int/md/R19-RA19-C-0014/en) should also be considered as part of this Contribution, while additional justification, including the need for training, is provided below.

**Discussion and additional justification**: First and foremost, the United States does not propose any mechanism that would impact the right of a Study Group to conduct its own business and functions.

At this time, there is no defined term limit for Chairs and Vice-Chairs of ITU-R Working Parties, which affords those holding these positions the opportunity to continue in these roles indefinitely, provided that they have the ongoing support of their sponsoring agency and their administration.

The collegiality of the work within the ITU Radiocommunication Sector does not present any opportunity to challenge an incumbent Chair of a Working Party – some of whom have served for more than 20 years.

The ITU-R Study Groups are independent in establishing their own internal structure (including the Working Parties) and designating its leadership. This structure is rarely changed, if ever.

* **No Opportunities for Upward Mobility:** Maintaining the status quo is limiting opportunities for emerging ICT leaders to ascend into leadership positions within the ITU-R Study Group structure. Currently, there are 9 term-limited opportunities as Chair across the Study Groups, CCV, RAG and CPM. An additional 21 leadership positions would become available, if certain term limits are imposed on Working Party Chairs.

As a consequence, two observations may be made: First, the pool of qualified, experienced Chairs at a World Radiocommunication Conference, as an example, is limited. Delegates who are asked to serve as Chair of Committees (COMs), Working Groups and sub-working groups, etc. may have, at times, had limited Chair experience within the ITU-R and have not had the training to step into such positions, especially at a WRC.

The second observation is the correlation between the number of Vice-Chairs of a Study Group, which is extremely high, and the lack of turnover among the 21 Working Party Chairs. As there are no pre-determined leadership opportunities for ascension or succession within the Working Party Chairs and Vice-Chairs, one of the few remaining options is to submit a candidacy for Vice-Chair of a Study Group. This may explain the somewhat recent proliferation of Study Group Vice-Chairs.

* **Waiver Availability**: Any decision or way forward on term limits for Working Party Chairs and Vice-Chairs should include the availability of a waiver or exemption to the term limit by any Study Group due to a particular expertise or required qualifications for the Working Party Chair and the lack of available alternative Chairs. This waiver approach, however, must also be justified.
* As stated earlier, the United States fully recognizes the right of any Study Group to manage its internal structure and decisions. Clearly, certain special expertise may be required in order to effectively chair 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.
* The United States suggests 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.
* As an example, a Study Group may inform the Director BR of its intention to retain its Working Party Chair(s) for the next study period. Such information may be included in the Administrative Circular (CACE) regarding the appointment of Chairmen and Vice-Chairmen of ITU-R Study Groups, normally issued 9-month prior to the RA.
* **Mentoring**: A term limit provides opportunities for the current leadership to serve as “Active” Past Chairs with mentoring roles and other responsibilities.

The workload and deliverables of a Working Party do not allow any free time for a current (sitting) Working Party Chair to provide mentoring duties. An immediate (and active) Past Chair should be invited to extend their expertise in terms of mentoring and training opportunities, especially toward emerging ICT leaders.

* **Training**: As instructed by RA-19, the provisions for training should be incorporated as part of the review of Resolution ITU-R 1.

Provisions for training of newly elected Chairs and Vice-Chairs could be included in Resolution ITU-R 1 or in another Resolution, as appropriate.

The United States notes that such opportunity is already provided in Res. 1, in particular § A1.6.1.1 - Meetings of Study Group Chairmen and Vice-Chairmen, which states “As soon as practical after each RA, as well as when the need arises, the Director will call a meeting of the Chairmen and Vice Chairmen of SGs and may invite Chairmen and Vice-Chairmen of WPs and other subordinate groups.” While the intent of such meeting (proposed after each RA) is coordination among Study Groups for the next study period, a training module may be incorporated as part of this meeting called by the Director.

The United States requests clarification from the RAG as to the implementation of this clause (i.e. § A1.6.1.1).

**Proposal**:

1. With respect to the term limits of Working Party Chairs and Vice-Chairs and its linkage to Resolution ITU-R 15-6, the United States does not offer a particular proposal in this contribution. Instead, the U.S. seeks the collective view of the RAG as to how best to proceed:
	1. Should Resolution ITU-R 15-6 be Suppressed at RA-23, and replaced with a new Resolution? (A proposal to Suppress ITU-R 15-6 was made at RA-19, and was tabled pending the evaluation of term limits by RAG during this study period)
	2. Should Resolution ITU-R 15-6 be revised? And what other Resolutions (i.e. ITU-R 1, etc.) may need to be revised as well?
	3. Is there a different alternative without the need of an explicit Resolution?
	4. Should the status quo be maintained based on the outcome of the evaluation during this study period?
	5. Since there is no defined term limit for Chairs and Vice-Chairs of ITU-R Working Parties, should a “ceiling” be set instead without the explicit need of a Resolution? For example, a maximum of 4-terms, which would cover 4 WRC cycles.
2. With respect to training, the United States proposes that the BR, through the Study Groups Department (SGD), develop a training module for all incoming Chairs and Vice-Chairs with a particular focus on the working methods, facilitation to reach consensus, working party management, etc.

As part of the RA-19 instructions to the RAG regarding a review of Resolution ITU-R 1, the United States proposes the incorporation of a training module as part of § A1.6.1.1, which already includes a provision for a meeting of all Chairs and Vice-Chairs called by the Director BR.

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