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| **Radiocommunication Advisory Group** |  |
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| **Document 5B/239-E****Document 5C/143-E****Document 5D/492-E****22 February 2021** |
| **Original: English****PLENARY** |
| ATDI[[1]](#footnote-1) |
| SIMPLiFYING THE approvAL OF Liaison Statements |
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Introduction

1) Today liaison statements (LSs) are discussed and approved at the plenaries of Working Parties (WPs). LSs tolerate mainly correspondence among ITU-R WPs, not requiring excessive formality and fine-tuning. Editorials should be left to the BR.

2) Document [CVC/4](https://www.itu.int/dms_ties/itu-r/md/19/cvc/c/R19-CVC-C-0004%21%21MSW-E.docx) ‘Summary of the 17th meeting of Chairmen and Vice-Chairmen of radiocommunication Study Groups (E-meeting, 20 January 2021)’ states “There was a common understanding that a liaison statement (LS) is meant to be simple as it serves as a mean to communicate among the Groups and its drafting and approval should not consume too much time in WP Plenary meetings. The liaison activity should be faster and more direct. A proposal to speed up the preparation and dispatch processes of LSs would be for WPs to delegate this task to WGs, if agreed by the WP. Some concerns were raised regarding this proposal. In any case, this should be in line with the provisions of Resolution [ITU‑R 1-8](https://www.itu.int/pub/R-RES-R.1).” Another sentence (**bold** in the original) “**Trust** is also an element required to make progress”.

3) It is a practice that ITU-R Study Group 5 delegates, for the entire study period, the approval of Handbooks to its Working Parties in accordance with § 2.3 of Resolution ITU-R 1; see Assignment of texts to the Study Group 5 Sub-Groups, [Document 5/1](https://www.itu.int/md/R19-SG05-C-0001/en)(Rev.1), 2 February 2021.

4) The Working-Groups (WGs) are informal, created by WPs. They are not mentioned in Resolution [ITU-R 1-8](https://www.itu.int/pub/R-RES-R.1-8-2019); consequently, they have no official status; WGs may only produce informal drafts for consideration by the relevant WP.

5) Discussions on LSs at the WGs are commonly repeated at plenaries, with the same arguments. In many cases the same experts prepare the LSs and serve as contact persons in the response; WPs may trust, these experts will present LSs aurally, with no-need for agreeing on every word.

6) This matter is related the working method of ITU-R WPs; so, there should be harmonized way to address it. The forthcoming ITU-R Study Group 5 WPs may practice it and RAG may propose lessons to all ITU-R WPs.

Discussion

1) Not all plenaries’ participants attend entirely WGs meetings.

2) Evidently, WPs’ Chairmen shall act in accordance with the ITU Constitution, Convention, General Rules of conferences, assemblies and meeting of the Union, as well as Resolution [ITU-R 1-8](https://www.itu.int/pub/R-RES-R.1-8-2019).

3) Practically, WPs plenaries open Working Documents (WDs) and Preliminary WDs, only upon request of membership. The same can be practiced for LSs: to speed up the preparation and dispatch of LSs, WPs may delegate this task to WGs, if agreed by the WP, as mentioned in Document [CVC/4](https://www.itu.int/dms_ties/itu-r/md/19/cvc/c/R19-CVC-C-0004%21%21MSW-E.docx).

4) On this matter, ITU-R SG 5 may serve pioneer and model for WPs of other SGs, after discussions at RAG upcoming meeting 29 March till 1 April 2021.

Proposal

1) WGs will prepare the draft LSs as TEMP Documents.

2) At the plenaries of the WPs, the specific TEMP LSs of every WG will be discussed, like WDs, only upon request of membership.

3) LSs will be dispatched after the WPs plenary.

4) During the first plenaries, Chairs of WPs may introduce this actual delegation to WGs; the idea is adopted, if plenary agrees. Decisions can be made at next plenary meetings.

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