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| **Radiocommunication Study Groups** | Logo  Description automatically generated |
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|  | **Revision 1 to Document RAG/TEMP/11** |
| **3 May 2023** |
| **English only** |
| Radiocommunication Advisory Group (RAG) | |
| REPLY LIAISON STATEMENT TO TSAG | |
| WORK RELATED TO UNMANNED AIRCRAFT SYSTEMS (UAS) AND OTHER RADIOCOMMUNICATION SYSTEMS | |

The Radiocommunication Advisory Group (RAG) would like to thank the Telecommunication Standardization Advisory Group (TSAG) for its Liaison Statement on Unmanned Aircraft Systems (UAS), received as [RAG/57](https://www.itu.int/md/meetingdoc.asp?lang=en&parent=R20-RAG-C-0057)[[1]](#footnote-2).

RAG discussed the LS at its 30th meeting (1-3 May 2023) and notes that TSAG is apparently performing several activities addressing the UAS and in particular drones, as a subset. In the view of RAG, UAS (including drones) is a radiocommunication related issue and hence is in the main purview of ITU-R. The operation of such systems is utmost safety related and needs a prior assessment of potential interference situations in the relevant ITU-R Study Groups.

The RAG wishes to inform TSAG that the use of frequencies for UAS, are being addressed within ITU-R, for example under Agenda Item 1.8 of the WRC-23. The implementation of RR No. **4.10** and the overall requirements for safety of life/flight have to be resolved in the ITU-R. The RAG also notes that, in addition to the related item in WRC-23, other work on UAS is also being considered by ITU-R Working Parties consistent with their mandates and in coordination with the International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO), as appropriate. Therefore, RAG through TSAG requests ITU-T to refrain from doing any work on UAS at least until these issues are resolved within ITU-R.

RAG would like to emphasize, that any topic relating to the use of radio frequencies and which could bring possible inconsistencies to the use of the radio spectrum should be dealt with in ITU-R, or in any case with appropriate liaison with ITU-R and not independently by ITU-T. This understanding is also clearly stated in Article 14(2) of the [ITU Convention](chrome-extension://efaidnbmnnnibpcajpcglclefindmkaj/https:/www.itu.int/en/council/Documents/basic-texts/Convention-E.pdf) (CV 193), which states: “*Technical or operating questions specifically related to radiocommunication as enumerated in Nos. 151 to 154 of this Convention shall be within the purview of the Radiocommunication Sector.*”

Furthermore, and as a general matter, RAG would like to note that a similar consideration – that the main responsibility for the addressed Services lies within ITU-R - is to be applied for several other LS received from ITU-T Study Groups, e.g.:

* [5D/1553](https://www.itu.int/md/meetingdoc.asp?lang=en&parent=R19-WP5D-C-1553) (LS from ITU-T SG 13 on "Fixed, mobile and satellite convergence - Requirements of supporting airborne broadband communication in IMT-2020 networks and beyond"),
* [4/73](https://www.itu.int/md/R19-SG04-C-0073/en), [5/117](https://www.itu.int/md/meetingdoc.asp?lang=en&parent=R19-SG05-C-0117) (LS from ITU-T SG 13 regarding the “use cases of satellite communications in developing countries”)

RAG appreciates and encourages the use of Liaison Statements between the ITU-T and ITU-R to improve coordination of their activities, and to avoid initiating any work or considering any contributions that is within the mandate of the other sector. In case of overlapping responsibility, prior consultation would be needed. Recognizing that contributions may be received that are outside its mandate, RAG invites TSAG to encourage the leadership of the group receiving such contributions to inform the submitting party that this topic is not within their terms of reference and, as appropriate, submit the contribution to the appropriate group.

RAG is looking forward to continuing collaboration with TSAG on a proper implementation of the appropriate liaison between ITU-R and ITU-T on issues dealing with Radiocommunication Services.

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| **Status:** For action |  |
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1. Also as [4A/868](https://www.itu.int/md/R19-WP4A-C-0868/en), [4C/402](https://www.itu.int/md/R19-WP4C-C-0402/en), 5B/735 [↑](#footnote-ref-2)