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|  | **Document RAG/15-E** |
| **21 March 2024** |
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| Russian Federation |
| APPOINTMENT OF ITU-R STUDY GROUPS AND RAG VICE-CHAIRMENAFTER RA-23 |
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# 1 Introduction

At the meetings of SGs 6 and 7 held on March 15 and 18, 2024, participants were drawn into politically motivated discussion, which led to discrimination of technical experts. In connection with this the Russian Federation made the statements provided in Annexes 1 and 2 hereto.

For the first time in the history of ITU-R, voting was held at the Study Group level for the appointment of vice-chairmen, which resulted in a violation of the sovereign rights of the Member State of the Union, the procedure for the appointment of vice-chairmen, as well as discrimination of technical experts based on their nationality[[1]](#footnote-2).

# 2 Analyzing the ITU legal framework regarding the procedure for appointing ITU-R SG vice-chairmen

ITU-R Study Group vice-chairmen are not elected positions. In accordance with Article 20 (No. 242) of the ITU Convention, only the RA shall appoint the chairman and one or more vice-chairmen for each study group. Following the third plenary meeting of the RA-23 the relevant groups (SGs, CCV, RAG and CPM) were delegated the responsibility for **appointing** their respective vice-chairmen based on Document PLEN/91 (see Document RA23/PLEN/101).

At the meetings of SG 6 and SG 7 in March 2024, a number of ITU Member State again made similar political statements, which were already noted by the RA-23 Plenary.

A number of ITU Member States have made it clear that politicization of ITU's work is unacceptable and have also expressed support for the candidates submitted to RA-23 for the posts of vice-chairmen. Both at that time on RA and at informal consultation at ITU-R SG6 nobody put in doubt the professionalism and competences of the candidates.

At the meetings of SG 6 and SG 7, it was decided **instead of appointment to elect** vice-chairmen on the basis of voting procedure which is not specified in basic texts of the Union for such case of vice-chairmen appointment at the SGs level and thereby substituting existing appointment procedure of SGs vice-chairmen defined in Resolution 208 PP-22.

In accordance with Resolution 208 PP-22 the appointment of vice-chairman shall be carried out in consultation and not through election with undefined voting procedure. In addition, Resolution 1-9 ITU-R establish working methods for SGs based on the consensus defined as *“…adopting decisions by general agreement in the absence of any formal objection and without a vote*”.

When conducting the vote at the meeting of SG 6 and SG 7 in March 2024, organizing the voting procedure and determining the vote results, due to the absents of guidance in ITU documentations for voting at the level of SGs a number of violations ITU’s basic texts was observed (see Annex 1).

As a result all these violations put at stake on the ability of SG 6 and SG 7, as well as their working bodies, to work on the basis of consensus in accordance with the working methods as in Resolution ITU-R 1-9. Thus, work on the development, adoption and approval of ITU-R documents (e.g. ITU-R Recommendations, ITU-R Reports, etc.) in the Study Groups, which make decisions in violation of the basic texts of the ITU, PP and RA Resolutions, rights of Member States and Sector Members, and which discriminate technical experts, will be hindered or even impossible without overturning the decisions on the election of vice-chairmen of ITU-R SG 6 and SG 7 through voting procedure.

# 3 Proposal

1 In order to restore the normal functioning of SG 6 and SG 7, it is proposed that the RAG instruct SG 6 and SG 7 at their regular meetings to cancel discriminatory decisions and consider the appointment of candidates to posts of vice-chairmen approved in regional organizations, in strict accordance with the provisions of Resolution 208 of the Plenipotentiary Conference and Resolution ITU-R 1-9.

2 To recommend the BR Director to take all necessary measures to ensure that appointments to the posts of vice-chairmen in all working bodies of the Sector are made in strict accordance with the provisions of Resolution 208 РР-22 and Resolution 1-9 ITU-R– by consultation and consensus, not by vote.

3 The Russian Federation calls on all Member States for which discrimination is unacceptable to make every effort to restore the normal functioning of Study Groups 6 and 7.

Annex 1

Political statement of the Russian Federation at the meeting of Radiocommunication Study Group 6 (Broadcasting Service) of the ITU-R following the vote

The Russian Federation does not recognize the legitimacy of the vote held on 15 March 2024 at the meeting of ITU-R Study Group 6 “Broadcast Services”.

The participants of the meeting were drawn into politically motivated discussion, which led to discrimination of SG technical experts based on nationality.

The Russian Federation does not recognize the results of this legally void vote, which led to the violation of the sovereign rights of a Member State of the Union.

ITU-R Study Group vice-chairmen are not elected positions. In accordance with Article 20 (No. 242) of the ITU Convention, only the Radiocommunication Assembly shall appoint the chairman and one or more vice-chairmen for each study group. Following the third plenary meeting of the Radiocommunication Assembly 2023 (Dubai) the relevant groups (SGs, CCV, RAG, CPM) were delegated the responsibility for **appointing** their respective vice-chairmen based on Document PLEN/[91](https://www.itu.int/md/R23-RA23-C-0091/en).

Voting at the study group level violates the decision of the Radiocommunication Assembly.

The Russian Federation also states that a decision to hold a vote, organize the voting procedure and determine the vote results, violated the following provisions:

* Article 31 No. 332 of the ITU Convention which states that a delegation shall be entitled to exercise the right to vote if its credentials are found to be in order by the Plenary Meeting.
* Article 32А No. 340A of the ITU Convention which states that a delegation of a Member State shall be duly accredited by that Member State to be entitled to one vote.
* Article 20.3 No. 96 of the General Rules of Conferences, Assemblies and Meetings of the Union regarding the chair’s decision to postpone the consideration of the issue of appointing unapproved candidates to the next meeting of the SG being overridden by a politically engaged minority.
* Article 20.3 No. 97 of the General Rules of Conferences, Assemblies and Meetings of the Union, regarding the decision to appoint candidates for the posts of vice-chairmen through vote.
* Article 20.4 of the General Rules of Conferences, Assemblies and Meetings of the Union. Politically motivated statements by a number of Member States disturbed the priority of motions of order and points of order, placing the issue of appointing to posts on vote.
* Resolution 208 of the ITU Plenipotentiary Conference, which does not provide for the appointment of SG vice-chairmen based on national affiliation with a Member State.
* A1.2.3 of Resolution ITU-R 1-9, which provides for the possibility of voting only at a Radiocommunication Assembly and does not provide for such an opportunity at other meetings of the Radiocommunication Sector.

The Russian Federation believes that routine development of ITU-R documents (e.g. ITU-R Recommendations, ITU-R Reports and other documents) within Study Group 6, which made decisions that grossly violate the ITU basic instruments and the rights of the ITU Member State, is no longer possible. In order to restore the normal functioning of SG 6 and its working bodies all discriminatory decisions shall be cancelled.

The Russian Federation reserves the right to apply all possible measures of influence provided to an ITU Member-State to protect its rights, including mirror measures against those ITU Member States that propose, disseminate and support the discrimination against technical experts and delegates based on their nationality.

The Russian Federation calls on all Member States for which discrimination based on nationality is unacceptable to make every effort to restore the regular functioning of Study Group 6 and its working bodies.

Annex 2

Political statement of the Russian Federation at the meeting of Radiocommunication Study Group 6 (Broadcasting Service) of the ITU-R

In response to statements by Ukraine and Belgium on behalf of the member states of the European Union: Austria, Bulgaria, Croatia, Republic of Cyprus, Czech Republic, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Ireland, Italy, Latvia, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Malta, the Netherlands, Portugal, Romania, Slovakia, Slovenia, Spain, and Sweden, the Russian Federation states the following.

We are convinced that the ITU should preserve a professional approach to the settlement of issues, avoiding any political confrontation between Member States and being guided by rules and procedures of the existing basic documents of the Union.

Any politicization of the work of the ITU and its bodies is harmful to the Organization and deteriorates the effectiveness of its work. Any political issues should be discussed at the appropriate UN agencies.

The Member States of the Regional Commonwealth in the Field of Communications (RCC) presented candidates agreed upon by the region for the posts of Vice-Chairmen of Study Group 6 (Broadcasting Service) of the ITU-R.

All candidates nominated by the Member States of RCC are highly qualified specialists who have been working for the ITU-R for many years. They received support from the entire Commonwealth, and fully comply with all the requirements established by PP-22 Resolution 208, as well as ITU-R Resolution 1-9.

The candidates' CVs were published prior to the Radiocommunication Assembly-2023. The professional skills and competences of the RCC candidates were not disputed by any Member States of ITU.

During the discussion at RA-23 on matter of the appointment of candidates for the posts of chairmen and vice-chairmen of Study Groups and other working bodies of the ITU-R, the group of Member States made the statements for the political reasons following which, in particular, the Russian candidates cannot be appointed to the mentioned above posts. There were no comments on their professional qualities.

Some group of Member States clearly indicated their disagreement concerning the politicization of the matters discussed.

The application of a criterion based on nationality to candidates nominated by one or another ITU regional telecommunication organization grossly violates the provisions of the ITU Constitution and Convention, as well as Decisions and Resolutions of the ITU Plenipotentiary Conference.

ITU is a specialized UN agency in the sphere of telecommunications, all discussions should be focused on fulfilling its mandate, where the main criteria should be issues of professional skills, competences, and technical efficiency.

We express our openness to reach a consensus on the issue under consideration, which should be based on the rules and procedures of ITU's basic documents, as well as meet the interests of ITU regional telecommunication organization.

Member States have no right to interfere in the interests of other ITU regional telecommunication organization. However, if Member States propose new criteria for experts representing the Telecommunication organization whose Government is involved in current conflict situations, the same requirement should apply to candidates whose States propose such criteria.

The Russian Federation reserves the right to apply all possible measures of influence provided to an ITU Member-State, including mirror measures, against those ITU Member States that propose, disseminate and support the discriminatory principle against technical experts and delegates. In this regard, we reserve the right to state our position on the appointment of candidates for the posts of chairmen and vice-chairmen of the working groups of SG6.

We reaffirm our commitment to the Statements of the Russian Federation No. 81 made during the 2022 Plenipotentiary Conference, at the seventh Plenary meeting of the regular session of the ITU Council 2023 and the second last Plenary meeting of the additional session of the ITU Council 2023, as well as the third Plenary Meeting of the 2023 ITU Radiocommunication Assembly.

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1. #  Universal Declaration of Human Rights, Article 2

Everyone is entitled to all the rights and freedoms set forth in this Declaration, without distinction of any kind, such as race, colour, sex, language, religion, political or other opinion, national or social origin, property, birth or other status. Furthermore, no distinction shall be made on the basis of the political, jurisdictional or international status of the country or territory to which a person belongs, whether it be independent, trust, non-self-governing or under any other limitation of sovereignty. [↑](#footnote-ref-2)