

MOD

RESOLUTION 644 (Rev.WRC-2000)

Telecommunication resources for disaster mitigation and relief operations

The World Radiocommunication Conference (Istanbul, 2000),

considering

- a) that ITU, in the same spirit as reflected in Articles 40 and 46 of its Constitution has specifically recognized the importance of the international use of radiocommunications in the event of natural disasters, epidemics, famines and similar emergencies;
- b) that the Plenipotentiary Conference of the International Telecommunication Union (Minneapolis, 1998), in endorsing Resolution 19 of the World Telecommunication Development Conference (Valetta, 1998), adopted Resolution 36 (Rev.Minneapolis, 1998) on telecommunications in the service of humanitarian assistance;
- c) that administrations have been urged to take all practical steps to facilitate the rapid deployment and effective use of telecommunication resources for disaster mitigation and disaster relief operations by reducing and, where possible, removing regulatory barriers and strengthening transborder cooperation between States,

recognizing

- a) the potential of modern telecommunication technologies as an essential tool for disaster mitigation and relief operations and the vital role of telecommunications for the safety and security of relief workers in the field;
- b) the particular needs of developing countries and the special requirements of the inhabitants of remote areas,

noting

that the Intergovernmental Conference on Emergency Telecommunications (ICET-98), held from 16 to 18 June 1998 in Tampere, Finland, adopted the Convention on the Provision of Telecommunication Resources for Disaster Mitigation and Relief Operations (Tampere Convention),

resolves

to invite the ITU Radiocommunication Sector to continue to study, as a matter of urgency, those aspects of radiocommunications that are relevant to disaster mitigation and relief operations, such as decentralized means of communications that are appropriate and generally available, including amateur radio facilities and mobile and portable satellite terminals,

instructs the Director of the Radiocommunication Bureau

to support administrations in their work towards the implementation of Resolution 36 (Rev.Minneapolis, 1998) and the Tampere Convention.