

RESOLUTION 647 (WRC-07)

Spectrum management guidelines for emergency and disaster relief radiocommunication¹

The World Radiocommunication Conference (Geneva, 2007),

considering

a) the Tampere Convention on the Provision of Telecommunications Resources for Disaster Mitigation and Relief Operations (Tampere, 1998)², an international treaty deposited with the United Nations Secretary-General, calls on the States Parties, when possible, and in conformity with their national law, to develop and implement measures to facilitate the availability of telecommunication resources for such operations;

b) that some administrations may have different operational needs and spectrum requirements for emergency and disaster-relief applications, depending on the circumstances;

c) that the immediate availability of pre-identified and pre-coordinated frequencies, and/or spectrum-flexible technologies to allow near-instantaneous decisions to make use of available spectrum, are important for successful telecommunications in the very early stages of humanitarian assistance intervention for disaster relief,

recognizing

a) Resolution 36 (Rev. Antalya, 2006) of the Plenipotentiary Conference on telecommunications/information and communication technologies (ICTs) in the service of humanitarian assistance;

b) Resolution 136 (Antalya, 2006) of the Plenipotentiary Conference on the use of telecommunications/information and communication technologies for monitoring and management in emergency and disaster situations for early warning, prevention, mitigation and relief;

¹ The term “emergency and disaster relief radiocommunication” refers to radiocommunications used by agencies and organizations dealing with a serious disruption of the functioning of society, posing a significant widespread threat to human life, health, property or the environment, whether caused by accident, natural phenomena or human activity, and whether occurring suddenly or as a result of complex, long-term processes.

² However, a number of countries have not ratified the Tampere Convention.

RES647-2

- c) Resolution 34 (Rev.Doha, 2006) of the World Telecommunication Development Conference (WTDC) on the role of telecommunications/ICT in early warning and mitigation of disasters and humanitarian assistance, as well as ITU-D Question 22/2 “Utilization of ICT for disaster management, resources, and active and passive space-based sensing systems as they apply to disaster and emergency relief situations”;
- d) Resolution 48 (Doha, 2006) of WTDC on strengthening cooperation among telecommunication regulators;
- e) Resolution **644 (Rev.WRC-07)** on radiocommunication resources for early warning, disaster mitigation and relief operations;
- f) Programme 6 (Least developed countries and small island developing states, and emergency communications), a revised version of which was adopted by WTDC (Doha, 2006);
- g) Resolution **646 (WRC-03)** on public protection and disaster relief;
- h) Recommendation ITU-R M.1637, which offers guidance to facilitate the global circulation of radiocommunication equipment in emergency and disaster relief situations;
- i) Report ITU-R M.2033, which contains information on some bands or parts thereof which have been designated for disaster relief operations,

aware

of the progress made in regional organizations around the world, and in particular in regional telecommunication organizations, on matters related to emergency communications planning and response,

recognizing further

- a) Resolution ITU-R 55 of the Radiocommunication Assembly (Geneva, 2007), which invites the ITU-R Study Groups to take into consideration the scope of ongoing studies/activities outlined in the annex to the Resolution, and to develop guidelines related to the management of radiocommunications in disaster prediction, detection, mitigation and relief, collaboratively and cooperatively, within ITU and with organizations external to the Union, in order to avoid duplication of effort;
- b) Resolution ITU-R 53 of the Radiocommunication Assembly (Geneva, 2007), which instructs the Director of the Radiocommunication Bureau to assist Member States with their emergency radiocommunication preparedness activities such as the listing of currently available frequencies for use in emergency situations for inclusion in a database maintained by the Bureau,

noting

- a) that when a disaster occurs, the disaster relief agencies are usually the first on the scene using their day-to-day communication systems, but that in most cases other agencies and organizations may also be involved in disaster relief operations;
- b) that there is a critical requirement to perform immediate spectrum management actions, including frequency coordination, sharing and spectrum reuse, within a disaster area;
- c) that national spectrum planning for emergency and disaster relief should take into account the need for cooperation and bilateral consultation with other concerned administrations, which can be facilitated by spectrum harmonization and/or spectrum-flexible technology, as well as agreed spectrum management guidelines pertaining to disaster relief and emergency planning;
- d) that in times of disasters, radiocommunication facilities may be destroyed or impaired and the national regulatory authorities may not be able to provide the necessary spectrum management services for the deployment of radio systems for relief operations;
- e) that the identification of frequency availability within individual administrations within which equipment could operate, or the use of spectrum-flexible equipment that allows for operation in various spectrum-access scenarios, may ease the interoperability and/or interworking, with mutual cooperation and consultation, especially in national, regional and cross-border emergency situations and disaster relief activities,

noting further

- a) that flexibility must be afforded to disaster relief agencies and organizations to use current and future radiocommunications, so as to facilitate their humanitarian operations;
- b) that it is in the interest of administrations and disaster relief agencies and organizations to have access to updated information on national spectrum planning for emergency and disaster relief,

resolves

- 1 to encourage administrations to consider global and/or regional frequency bands/ranges for emergency and disaster relief when undertaking their national planning and to communicate this information to the Bureau;
- 2 to encourage administrations to maintain available frequencies for use in the very early stages of humanitarian assistance intervention for disaster relief,

RES647-4

instructs the Director of the Radiocommunication Bureau

1 to assist Member States with their emergency communication preparedness activities by establishing a database of currently available frequencies for use in emergency situations, which are not limited to those listed in Resolution **646 (WRC-03)**, and by issuing an appropriate listing, taking into account Resolution ITU-R 53 of the Radiocommunication Assembly (Geneva, 2007);

2 to maintain the database and facilitate online access thereto by administrations, national regulatory authorities, disaster relief agencies and organizations, in particular the United Nations Emergency Relief Coordinator, in accordance with the operating procedures developed for disaster situations;

3 to collaborate with the United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs and other organizations, as appropriate, in the development and dissemination of standard operating procedures and relevant spectrum management practices for use in the event of a disaster situation;

4 to take into consideration all relevant activities in ITU's other two Sectors and General Secretariat;

5 to report on the progress on this Resolution to subsequent World Radiocommunication Conferences,

invites ITU-R

to conduct studies as necessary, and as a matter of urgency, in support of the establishment of appropriate spectrum management guidelines applicable in emergency and disaster relief operations,

urges administrations

1 to participate in the emergency communication preparedness activities described above and to provide the relevant information to the Bureau concerning their national frequency allocations and spectrum management practices for emergency and disaster relief radiocommunications, taking into account Resolution ITU-R 53 of the Radiocommunication Assembly (Geneva, 2007);

2 to assist in keeping the database up to date by advising the Bureau on an ongoing basis of any modifications to the information requested above.