RESOLUTION 644 (Rev.WRC-07)

Radiocommunication resources for early warning, disaster mitigation and relief operations

The World Radiocommunication Conference (Geneva, 2007),

considering

a)　　　　that administrations have been urged to take all practical steps to facilitate the rapid deployment and effective use of telecommunication resources for early warning, disaster mitigation and disaster relief operations by reducing and, where possible, removing regulatory barriers and strengthening global, regional and transborder cooperation between States;

b)　　　　the potential of modern telecommunication technologies as an essential tool for disaster mitigation and relief operations and the vital role of telecommunications and ICT for the safety and security of relief workers in the field;

c)　　　　the particular needs of developing countries and the special requirements of the inhabitants living in high risk areas exposed to disasters, as well as those living in remote areas;

d)　　　　the work carried out by the Telecommunication Standardization Sector in standardizing the common alerting protocol (CAP), through the approval of the relevant CAP Recommendation;

e)　　　　that, under the Strategic Plan of the Union 2008-2011, "encouraging the effective use of telecommunications/ICTs and modern technologies during critical emergencies, as a crucial part of disaster early warning, mitigation, management and relief strategies, in light of the accelerating pace of change in the global environment and of the action lines of WSIS", is considered one of the three major priorities for ITU in this period;

f)　　　　that the majority of terrestrial networks in affected areas were damaged during recent disasters,

recognizing

a)　　　　Article 40 of the Constitution, on priority of telecommunications concerning safety of life;

b)　　　　Article 46 of the Constitution, on distress calls and messages;

c) No. 91 of the Tunis Agenda for the Information Society adopted by the second phase of the World Summit on the Information Society and in particular provision c): "Working expeditiously towards the establishment of standards-based monitoring and worldwide early-warning systems linked to national and regional networks and facilitating emergency disaster response all over the world, particularly in high-risk regions";

d) Resolution 34 (Rev. Doha, 2006) of the World Telecommunication Development Conference 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";

e) Resolution 36 (Rev. Antalya, 2006) of the Plenipotentiary Conference on telecom-munications/information and communication technology in the service of humanitarian assistance;

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

g) Resolution ITU-R 53 of the Radiocommunication Assembly (Geneva, 2007), on the use of radiocommunications in disaster response and relief;

h) Resolution ITU-R 55 of the Radiocommunication Assembly (Geneva, 2007), on the ITU-R studies of disaster prediction, detection, mitigation and relief,

noting

the close relation of this Resolution with Resolution **646 (WRC-03)** on public protection and disaster relief and Resolution **647 (WRC-07)** on spectrum management guidelines for emergency and disaster relief radiocommunication, and the need to coordinate activities under these Resolutions in order to prevent any possible overlap,

resolves

1 that the ITU Radiocommunication Sector (ITU-R) continue to study, as a matter of urgency, those aspects of radiocommunications/ICT that are relevant to early warning, disaster mitigation and relief operations, such as decentralized means of telecommunications that are appropriate and generally available, including amateur terrestrial and satellite radio facilities, mobile and portable satellite terminals, as well as the use of passive space-based sensing systems;

2 to urge the ITU-R Study Groups, taking into account the scope of ongoing studies/ activities appended to Resolution ITU-R 55 of the Radiocommunication Assembly (Geneva, 2007), to accelerate their work, particularly in the areas of disaster prediction, detection, mitigation and relief,

instructs the Director of the Radiocommunication Bureau

1   to support administrations in their work towards the implementation of both Resolutions 36 (Rev. Antalya, 2006) and 136 (Antalya, 2006), as well as the Tampere Convention;

2   to collaborate, as appropriate, with the United Nations Working Group on Emergency Telecommunications (WGET);

3   to participate actively in, and contribute to, the ITU Global Forum on Effective Use of Telecommunications/ICT for Disaster Management: Saving Lives (Geneva, 10-12 December 2007);

4   to participate in, and contribute to, Telecommunications for Disaster Relief and Mitigation – Partnership Coordination Panel (PCP-TDR);

5   to synchronize activities between this Resolution, Resolution **646 (WRC-03)** and Resolution **647 (WRC-07)** to prevent a possible overlap.