

RESOLUTION 11 (WRC-12)

Use of satellite orbital positions and associated frequency spectrum to deliver international public telecommunication services in developing countries

The World Radiocommunication Conference (Geneva, 2012),

considering

- a) that Resolution 1721 (XVI) of the United Nations General Assembly sets forth the principle of the availability of satellite communications to the nations of the world on a global basis;
- b) that, in the United Nations Millennium Declaration (Resolution A/RES/55/2), the Heads of State and Government expressed their belief that the central challenge faced today is to ensure that globalization becomes a positive force for all the world's people; and further resolved "*to ensure that the benefits of new technologies, especially information and communication technologies ... are available to all*";
- c) that United Nations General Assembly Resolution 56/183 endorsed the holding of a World Summit on the Information Society (WSIS);
- d) that the first phase of WSIS, held in Geneva in December 2003, adopted a Declaration of Principles and a Plan of Action;
- e) that in the Geneva Declaration of Principles it is recognized that: "*A well-developed information and communication network infrastructure and applications, adapted to regional, national and local conditions, easily-accessible and affordable, and making greater use of broadband and other innovative technologies where possible, can accelerate the social and economic progress of countries, and the well-being of all individuals, communities and peoples*";
- f) that WSIS recognized the relevance of the regulatory regime and of international, open, interoperable and non-discriminatory standards, and the importance of radio-frequency spectrum management on the basis of the public interest;
- g) that the Geneva Plan of Action incorporates actions in order to "*promote the provision of global high-speed satellite services for underserved areas such as remote and sparsely populated areas*";
- h) that the report of the Secretary-General for ECOSOC issued in May 2009 clearly recognized that "*satellite service continues to play a vital role in television broadcasting and in connecting more isolated and rural areas*"¹;
- i) that Resolution **15 (Rev.WRC-03)** invites the Council to consider in what way the work of ITU-T, ITU-R and ITU-D and other organs of the Union may be utilized in the most effective way for the information and assistance of administrations of Member States in the development of space radiocommunications;

¹ Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC), Commission on Science and Technology for Development, twelfth session, Geneva, 25-29 May 2009, Report of the Secretary-General. Page 11, http://www.unctad.org/en/docs/ecn162009d2_en.pdf. (Progress made in the implementation of and follow-up to the World Summit on the Information Society outcomes at the regional and international levels - Development-oriented policies for socio-economic inclusive information society, including access, infrastructure and an enabling environment).

- j) that bridging the digital divide (i.e. reducing the gap between technology-empowered and technology-excluded communities by providing universal access) was one of the main objectives of WSIS;
- k) that the Doha Action Plan adopted by the World Telecommunication Development Conference (WTDC-06) recognized that: *“ICTs are essential for political, economic, social and cultural development. They fuel the global information society and are rapidly transforming our lives and promoting better understanding among peoples. They also play an important role in poverty alleviation, job creation, environmental protection and the prevention and mitigation of natural and other disasters”*;
- l) that the Hyderabad Declaration adopted by the World Telecommunication Development Conference (WTDC-10) notes: *“... However, the digital divide remains, and is compounded by disparities in broadband access and infrastructure between and within countries, in particular between urban and rural areas. Rapid development of telecommunication/ICT infrastructure in rural and remote areas, using suitable technologies, is an immediate priority for many countries. Another major concern for many administrations is the lack of infrastructure to support telecommunication/ICT development in rural areas, for which suitable and affordable solutions have to be identified. Broadband access and usage, supported by strong national backbones, are increasingly considered as essential services that need to be universally available to all citizens in order to develop networked economies and information societies”*;
- m) that Article 44 of the ITU Constitution stipulates that: *“In using frequency bands for radio services, Member States shall bear in mind that radio frequencies and any associated orbits, including the geostationary-satellite orbit, are limited natural resources and that they must be used rationally, efficiently and economically, in conformity with the provisions of the Radio Regulations, so that countries or groups of countries may have equitable access to those orbits and frequencies, taking into account the special needs of the developing countries and the geographical situation of particular countries”*;
- n) that, by Resolution 71 (Rev. Guadalajara 2010) of the Plenipotentiary Conference, ITU adopted its strategic plan for the period 2012-2015, which contains, as one of the strategic goals of ITU-R: *“To seek ways and means to ensure rational, equitable, efficient and economical use of the radio-frequency spectrum and satellite-orbit resources and to promote flexibility for future expansion and new technological developments”*;
- o) that attainment of most of the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) remains a challenge, particularly in the poorest countries, amid a climate of global economic downturn;
- p) that, in its final report (*“A 2010 Leadership Imperative: The Future Built on Broadband”*), the Broadband Commission recognizes that: *“the Internet and other information and communication technologies (ICTs) should be used for the benefit of all mankind”*, and that *“broadband will be the basis for digital invention and innovation and the foundation for digital and other investments that lie at the very heart of our shared knowledge economy and society”*;
- q) that UN General Assembly Resolution A/65/65/141 of 20 December 2010 recognizes that *“while in recent years access to information and communications technologies, including the steady increase in Internet access ..., the need remains to reduce the digital divide and to ensure that the benefits of new technologies, especially information and communication technologies are available to all ...”* and *“that information and communications technologies present new opportunities and challenges and that there is a pressing need to address the major impediments that developing countries face in accessing the new technologies, such as insufficient resources, infrastructure, ... ”*;

considering further

the need to assist developing countries in using satellite telecommunications to enable sustainable and affordable access to information and telecommunication services,

recognizing

- a) that the introduction of competition into the international satellite telecommunication sector has led to an increase in the availability of diverse and innovative international telecommunication services in both developed and developing countries, including the availability of essential public services such as disaster relief and e-government;
- b) the growing availability of mobile and fixed broadband communications in the developing world and the innovative and economically beneficial uses to which they are being put;
- c) that governments and international and regional intergovernmental organizations are fostering innovation, affordability and broader availability of satellite services through ITU registration and deployment of their own satellite systems;
- d) that broadband technologies, as a means of supporting vital telecommunication applications, should be accessible to everyone without discrimination;
- e) that broadband satellite technologies contribute to reducing the digital (broadband) divide through the provision of telecommunication services, and that the expansion of broadband satellite services is generating growth in the developing countries through e-applications, such as e-health, e-learning, e-government, teleworking and residential and community Internet access, which can be used as a rapid and efficient tool for achieving each country's ICT policy objectives;
- f) that efficient use of the orbital resource and associated frequency spectrum helps both to ensure global coverage and to connect countries directly, instantly and reliably at an affordable price,

reaffirms

- a) the important role played by international public telecommunication services by satellite in ensuring fulfilment of the MDGs;
- b) ITU's role in international management of the radio-frequency spectrum and satellite orbit resource;
- c) the international rights and obligations of all administrations in respect of their own and other administrations' frequency assignments;
- d) that ITU satellite coordination and notification procedures specified in the Radio Regulations are used to obtain international recognition and protection for satellite network operations,

noting

- a) that Programme 1 of the Telecommunication Development Bureau (BDT) on information and communication infrastructure and technology development, provides assistance to developing countries in the area of spectrum management and in the efficient and cost-effective development of rural, national and international broadband telecommunication networks, including by satellite;
- b) the activities of the ITU-D Study Groups in preparing materials to assist developing countries in the areas of spectrum management, broadband access technologies, and telecommunications/ICTs for rural and remote areas and disaster management,

resolves

1 that ITU-R continue to collaborate with, and provide information when requested by, ITU-D, on satellite technologies and applications as defined in ITU-R Recommendations and Reports and on satellite regulatory procedures in the Radio Regulations that will help developing countries with development and implementation of satellite networks and services;

2 that ITU-R undertakes studies to determine whether it might be necessary to apply additional regulatory measures to enhance the availability of public international telecommunication services delivered through satellite technology,

instructs the Director of the Radiocommunication Bureau

1 to ensure that ITU-R collaborates with ITU-D in the implementation of this resolution;

2 to report the results of these studies to the next world radiocommunication conference,

invites the Director of the Telecommunication Development Bureau

1 to organize workshops, seminars and training courses that specifically address sustainable and affordable access to satellite telecommunications, including broadband, and to initiate activities or studies between the relevant study groups of ITU-D and ITU-R that will assist developing countries in building capacities in the development and use of satellite telecommunications;

2 to bring this resolution to the attention of the World Telecommunication Development Conference,

invites Member States and Sector Members

to contribute to the implementation of this resolution,

instructs the Secretary-General

to bring this Resolution to the attention of the International Telecommunication Satellite Organization (ITSO) and the International Mobile Satellite Organization (IMSO).