

RESOLUTION 647 (REV.WRC-12)

Spectrum management guidelines for emergency and disaster relief radiocommunication¹

The World Radiocommunication Conference (Geneva, 2012),

considering

- a) that natural disasters have underscored the importance of utilizing effective measures to mitigate their effects, including prediction, detection and alerting through the coordinated and effective use of radio-frequency spectrum;
- b) ITU's comprehensive role in emergency communications, not only in the field of radiocommunications, but also in the area of technical standards to facilitate interconnection and interoperability of networks for monitoring and management at the onset of and during emergency and disaster situations, and as an integral part of the telecommunication development agenda through the Hyderabad Action Plan;
- c) that Resolution **644 (Rev.WRC-12)**, on radiocommunication resources for early warning, disaster mitigation and relief operations, resolves that 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;
- d) that Resolution **646 (Rev.WRC-12)** addresses the broader category of public protection and disaster relief (PPDR) and encourages administrations to consider identified frequency bands/ranges or parts thereof when undertaking their national planning for the purposes of achieving regionally harmonized frequency bands/ranges for advanced public protection and disaster relief solutions;
- e) that Resolution 36 (Rev. Guadalajara, 2010) addresses the role of telecommunications/ICTs in the service of humanitarian assistance, Resolution 136 (Rev. Guadalajara, 2010) addresses the use of ICTs for monitoring and management in emergency and disaster situations for early warning, prevention, mitigation and relief, and Resolution 34 (Rev. Hyderabad, 2010) addresses the role of telecommunications/ICTs in disaster preparedness, early warning, rescue, mitigation, relief and response,

recognizing

- a) that 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;

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.

- b) that some administrations may have different operational needs and spectrum requirements for emergency and disaster-relief applications, depending on their circumstances;
- c) that the immediate availability of spectrum to support emergency radiocommunication equipment is important for successful telecommunications in the very early stages of humanitarian assistance intervention for disaster relief,

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, 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, 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, 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 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,

taking into account

a) BR Circular Letters CR/281 (13 March 2008), CR/283 (6 May 2008) and its Corrigendum 1 (13 May 2008), CR/288 (17 July 2008) and CR/291 (9 October 2008), concerning the preparatory steps towards the establishment of a database of available frequencies/frequency bands for use by terrestrial and space services in emergency situations, as well as the data formats for their submission;

b) that, pursuant to BR Circular Letter CR/323 (31 March 2011), the Bureau advised all administrations that only limited information had been received for both terrestrial and space services,

resolves

1 to encourage administrations to communicate to BR, as soon as possible, the frequencies available for use in emergency and disaster relief;

2 to reiterate to administrations the importance of having frequencies available for use in the very early stages of humanitarian assistance intervention for disaster relief,

instructs the Director of the Radiocommunication Bureau

1 to continue to assist Member States with their emergency communication preparedness activities by maintaining the database³ of currently available frequencies for use in emergency situations, which are not limited to those listed in Resolution **646 (Rev.WRC-12)**, and by issuing an appropriate listing, taking into account Resolution ITU-R 53;

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,

invites the Director of the Telecommunication Standardization Bureau and the Director of the Telecommunication Development Bureau

to collaborate closely with the Director of the Radiocommunication Bureau to ensure that a consistent and coherent approach is adopted in the development of strategies in response to emergency and disaster situations,

³ The database may be accessed at <http://www.itu.int/ITU-R/go/res647>.

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;

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.