

## RESOLUTION 359 (REV.WRC-15)

### **Consideration of regulatory provisions for updating and modernization of the Global Maritime Distress and Safety System**

The World Radiocommunication Conference (Geneva, 2015),

*considering*

- a) that there is a continuing need in the Global Maritime Distress and Safety System (GMDSS), on a global basis, for improved communications to enhance maritime capabilities;
- b) that the International Maritime Organization (IMO) is considering GMDSS modernization;
- c) that advanced maritime MF/HF/VHF data systems and satellite communication systems may be used to deliver Maritime Safety Information (MSI) and other GMDSS communications;
- d) that IMO is considering recognition of additional global and regional GMDSS satellite communication systems;
- e) that GMDSS satellite systems need to provide protection of incumbent services in accordance with the Radio Regulations, including those in adjacent frequency bands, from harmful interference, and such GMDSS satellite systems should operate within the interference environment of existing systems,

*noting*

- a) that WRC-12 reviewed Appendix 17 to improve efficiency and introduce bands for new digital technology;
- b) that WRC-12 reviewed the regulatory provisions and spectrum allocations for use by maritime safety systems for ships and ports,

*further noting*

that WRC-12 and this conference have reviewed Appendix 18 to improve efficiency and introduce bands for new digital technology,

*recognizing*

- a) that advanced maritime communication systems may support the implementation of GMDSS modernization;
- b) that IMO efforts to implement GMDSS modernization may require modification of the Radio Regulations to accommodate advanced maritime communication systems;
- c) that due to the importance of GMDSS communication systems in ensuring the safe operation of shipping and commerce and security at sea, they must be resilient to interference;

d) that IMO has received an application to recognize an existing satellite system as part of the GMDSS, and consequential regulatory actions may need to be considered;

e) that Nos. **4.6**, **5.369** and **5.372** provide information on the use of the frequency band 1 616-1 626.5 MHz, or parts thereof,

*resolves to invite ITU-R*

1 to conduct studies, taking into consideration the activities of IMO, as well as information and requirements provided by IMO, in order to determine the regulatory provisions to support GMDSS modernization;

2 to conduct studies, taking into consideration the activities of IMO and the recognition of additional satellite systems for use in the GMDSS, including consideration of the mobile-satellite service (MSS) allocations used and the potential impact of possible modifications to the provisions of the Radio Regulations on sharing and compatibility with other services and systems in the frequency band and adjacent frequency bands,

*invites the 2019 World Radiocommunication Conference*

1 to consider the result of ITU Radiocommunication Sector (ITU-R) studies and take necessary actions, as appropriate, to support GMDSS modernization;

2 to consider regulatory provisions, if appropriate, based on the ITU-R studies, and taking into consideration the activities of IMO, related to the introduction of additional satellite systems into the GMDSS, including consideration of the MSS allocations used, while ensuring the protection of all incumbent services, including those in adjacent frequency bands, from harmful interference, as stated in *recognizing e*),

*invites*

1 IMO to actively participate in the studies by providing requirements and information that should be taken into account in ITU-R studies;

2 the International Association of Marine Aids to Navigation and Lighthouse Authorities (IALA), the International Electrotechnical Commission (IEC), the International Hydrographic Organization (IHO), the International Organization for Standardization (ISO) and the World Meteorological Organization (WMO) to contribute to these studies,

*instructs the Secretary-General*

to bring this Resolution to the attention of IMO and other international and regional organizations concerned.