

## RESOLUTION 222 (REV.WRC-23)

**Use of the frequency bands 1 525-1 559 MHz and 1 626.5-1 660.5 MHz  
by the mobile-satellite service, and procedures to ensure long-term  
spectrum access for the aeronautical mobile-satellite (R) service**

The World Radiocommunication Conference (Dubai, 2023),

*considering*

- a)* that prior to WRC-97, the frequency bands 1 530-1 544 MHz (space-to-Earth) and 1 626.5-1 645.5 MHz (Earth-to-space) were allocated to the maritime mobile-satellite service and the frequency bands 1 545-1 555 MHz (space-to-Earth) and 1 646.5-1 656.5 MHz (Earth-to-space) were allocated on an exclusive basis to the aeronautical mobile-satellite (R) service (AMS(R)S) in most countries;
- b)* that WRC-97 allocated the frequency bands 1 525-1 559 MHz (space-to-Earth) and 1 626.5-1 660.5 MHz (Earth-to-space) to the mobile-satellite service (MSS) to facilitate the assignment of spectrum to multiple MSS systems in a flexible and efficient manner;
- c)* that WRC-97 adopted No. **5.353A** giving priority to accommodating spectrum requirements for, and protecting from unacceptable interference, distress, urgency and safety communications of the global maritime distress and safety system (GMDSS) in the frequency bands 1 530-1 544 MHz and 1 626.5-1 645.5 MHz and No. **5.357A** giving priority to accommodating spectrum requirements for, and protecting from unacceptable interference, AMS(R)S communications as defined within priority categories 1 to 6 in Article **44** for the frequency bands 1 545-1 555 MHz and 1 646.5-1 656.5 MHz;
- d)* that AMS(R)S systems are an essential element of the International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO) standardized communication infrastructure used in air traffic management for the provision of safety and regularity of flight in civil aviation;
- e)* that currently some MSS systems provide distress, emergency and safety communications under the MSS allocations in the frequency bands 1 525-1 559 MHz (space-to-Earth) and 1 626.5-1 660.5 MHz (Earth-to-space);
- f)* that it is necessary to ensure the long-term availability of the spectrum for AMS(R)S;
- g)* that it is necessary to retain unchanged the generic allocation for the MSS in the frequency bands 1 525-1 559 MHz and 1 626.5-1 660.5 MHz without placing undue constraints on the existing systems operating in accordance with the Radio Regulations,

*further considering*

- a) that frequency coordination between satellite networks is required on a bilateral basis in accordance with the Radio Regulations, and that, in the frequency bands 1 525-1 559 MHz (space-to-Earth) and 1 626.5-1 660.5 MHz (Earth-to-space), frequency coordination is partially assisted by regional multilateral meetings;
- b) that, in these frequency bands, geostationary mobile-satellite system operators currently use a capacity-planning approach at frequency coordination meetings, with the guidance and support of their administrations, to periodically coordinate access to the spectrum needed to accommodate their requirements;
- c) that spectrum requirements for MSS networks, including the GMDSS and AMS(R)S, are currently accommodated through the capacity-planning approach and that, in the frequency bands to which Nos. **5.353A** or **5.357A** apply, this approach, supplemented, in the case of AMS(R)S, by additional procedures contained in the Annex to this Resolution, may assist in accommodating the long-term spectrum requirements for GMDSS and AMS(R)S;
- d) that Report ITU-R M.2073 has concluded that prioritization and inter-system pre-emption between different mobile-satellite systems is not practical and, without a significant advance in technology, is unlikely to be feasible for technical, operational and economic reasons;
- e) that there is existing and increasing demand for spectrum for AMS(R)S and non-AMS(R)S by several mobile satellite systems in the frequency bands 1 525-1 559 MHz and 1 626.5-1 660.5 MHz, and that the application of this Resolution may impact the provision of services by non-AMS(R)S systems in the MSS;
- f) that according to the ITU-R studies, the long-term AMS(R)S spectrum requirements for communications within priority categories 1 to 6 of Article **44** have been estimated, at the year 2025, to be less than the available  $2 \times 10$  MHz identified by No. **5.357A**;

- g) that future requirements for GMDSS spectrum may require additional allocations,

*recognizing*

- a) that Article 40 of the ITU Constitution establishes the priority of telecommunications concerning safety of life;
- b) that ICAO has adopted standards and recommended practices addressing satellite communications with aircraft in accordance with the Convention on International Civil Aviation;
- c) that all air traffic communications as defined in Annex 10 to the Convention on International Civil Aviation fall within priority categories 1 to 6 of Article **44**;
- d) that Table 15-2 of Appendix **15** identifies the frequency bands 1 530-1 544 MHz (space-to-Earth) and 1 626.5-1 645.5 MHz (Earth-to-space) for distress and safety purposes in the maritime mobile-satellite service as well as for routine non-safety purposes;

e) that any administration having difficulty in applying the procedures of Articles 9 and 11 with respect to No. 5.357A and this Resolution may at any time request assistance from the Radiocommunication Bureau and the Board under the relevant provisions of the Radio Regulations, including Article 7, the relevant provisions of Articles 9 and 11, as well as Articles 13 and 14;

f) that ICAO has knowledge of aviation communication requirements,

*noting*

that, since spectrum resources are limited, there is a need to use them in the most efficient manner within and amongst various MSS systems, including GMDSS and AMS(R)S,

*resolves*

1 that, in frequency coordination of MSS networks in the frequency bands 1 525-1 559 MHz and 1 626.5-1 660.5 MHz, the notifying administrations of mobile-satellite networks shall ensure that the spectrum needed for distress, urgency and safety communications of GMDSS, as elaborated in Articles 32 and 33, in the frequency bands where No. 5.353A applies, and for the AMS(R)S communications within priority categories 1 to 6 of Article 44 in the frequency bands where No. 5.357A applies, is accommodated;

2 that notifying administrations of mobile-satellite networks shall ensure the use of the latest technical advances in their mobile-satellite systems, in order to achieve the most flexible, efficient and practical use of the generic allocations;

3 that the notifying administrations of mobile-satellite networks shall ensure that, in the event that the spectrum requirements of MSS, including AMS(R)S, networks are decreasing relative to the previous frequency coordination meeting, the corresponding unused spectrum resources shall be released to facilitate efficient use of spectrum;

4 that the notifying administrations of mobile-satellite networks shall ensure that MSS operators carrying non-safety-related traffic yield capacity, as and when necessary, to accommodate the spectrum requirements for distress, urgency and safety communication of GMDSS communications, as elaborated in Articles 32 and 33, and for AMS(R)S communications within priority categories 1 to 6 of Article 44; this could be achieved in advance through the coordination process in *resolves* 1, and in the case of AMS(R)S the procedures contained in the Annex to this Resolution shall apply,

*invites*

1 administrations, if they so desire, to have their AMS(R)S traffic requirements submitted to ICAO before the frequency coordination meeting;

2 ICAO to evaluate and, as appropriate, comment on the AMS(R)S traffic requirements received from individual administrations, on the basis of the known global and regional aviation traffic requirements, including the time-scale of regional and global communication requirements,

*instructs the Secretary-General*

to bring this Resolution to the attention of ICAO.

## ANNEX TO RESOLUTION 222 (REV.WRC-23)

**Procedures to implement No. 5.357A and  
Resolution 222 (Rev.WRC-23)**

1 The notifying administrations of planned MSS, including AMS(R)S, networks shall submit to the Radiocommunication Bureau (BR) the required technical characteristics and other relevant information of their MSS networks in accordance with Appendix 4. Coordination of these MSS networks with other affected satellite networks operating in the frequency bands 1 525-1 559 MHz and 1 626.5-1 660.5 MHz shall proceed in accordance with Articles 9 and 11 and other relevant provisions of the Radio Regulations, as appropriate.

2 To further facilitate coordination under Articles 9 and 11, the notifying administrations of MSS, including AMS(R)S, networks may authorize their respective MSS satellite operators, including AMS(R)S satellite operators, to enter into bilateral and multilateral coordination processes to obtain operator agreements on access to spectrum for their satellite networks.

3 At frequency coordination meetings, including operator meetings as referred to in 2 above, the notifying administration of each AMS(R)S network claiming priority under No. 5.357A, or its respective satellite operator, shall present the spectrum requirements of each AMS(R)S network translated from their traffic requirements in accordance with an agreed methodology that considers the most recent version of Recommendation ITU-R M.2091 and was developed in response to Resolution 422 (WRC-12), and accompanied with the information justifying such requirements.

The participants to the frequency coordination meeting then collectively validate the requirements.

The notifying administrations or their authorized MSS operators shall accommodate validated AMS(R)S spectrum requirements in accordance with No. 5.357A without placing undue constraints on the existing systems operating in accordance with the Radio Regulations.

4 The notifying administrations of MSS networks, including AMS(R)S, have responsibility to ensure that their respective assignments are compatible in the relevant bilateral or multilateral frequency coordination meetings (in particular when those networks span various geographic area(s)).

5 The notifying administrations shall inform BR about the total amount of spectrum assigned to AMS(R)S systems after each coordination meeting where the total AMS(R)S assignments are affected.

6 If a notifying AMS(R)S administration is of the opinion that its spectrum requirements have not been met in the frequency coordination process as per No. 5.357A, the notifying administration may notify the Director of BR of this and request that a Reassessment Meeting be called.

7 If the Bureau receives an announcement from an administration that their AMS(R)S spectrum requirements have not been met, the Director of the Bureau shall invite the notifying administrations of mobile-satellite networks involved in step 2 for a Reassessment Meeting to be held normally within three months. The Reassessment Meeting shall limit its task to consideration of the application of No. **5.357A** and shall not enter into specific coordination activities for the modification of the assignments to individual operators. The Reassessment Meeting shall be attended by the notifying administrations. These administrations may decide to invite other parties or BR in an advisory role if agreed by all notifying administrations.

8 If the Reassessment Meeting concludes that the AMS(R)S spectrum requirements of the concerned system have not been met, the Reassessment Meeting may call for an additional specific frequency coordination meeting of the notifying administrations of mobile-satellite networks involved in step 2 and their representative MSS operators, which is requested to adapt the coordination agreement, taking due account of the advice of the Reassessment Meeting. This frequency coordination meeting should take place as soon as possible and preferably immediately following the Reassessment Meeting.

9 At the conclusion of the Reassessment Meeting, a report containing information about the issue discussed and the conclusions shall be prepared by the participating notifying administrations and submitted to BR for publication.

10 If the matter remains unresolved at the administrations' frequency coordination meeting referred to in 8 above, the notifying AMS(R)S administration shall seek the assistance of the Radiocommunication Bureau pursuant to Articles **7** and **13** and notify the respective administrations indicating that its AMS(R)S requirements have not been satisfied. The Radiocommunication Bureau shall provide a report and assistance in accordance with No. **13.3**.

11 If the matter remains unresolved after the Bureau has communicated its conclusions to the notifying AMS(R)S administration involved, the notifying AMS(R)S administration may request review of the decision of the Bureau in accordance with Article **14**.