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| **World Conference on International  Telecommunications (WCIT-12) Dubai, 3-14 December 2012** |  |
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| PLENARY MEETING | **Revision 2 to Document 17-E** |
|  | **26 November 2012** |
|  | **Original: English** |
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| Australia | |
| PROPOSALS FOR THE WORK OF THE CONFERENCE | |

1. **Australian Principles for Considering Proposals to Amend the International Telecommunication Regulations (ITRs)**

Resolution 171 (Guadalajara, 2010) resolved to discuss and examine all proposals for revision of the ITRs, provided that those proposals:

1. are consistent with the purposes of the International Telecommunication Union (ITU) set forth in Article 1 of the Constitution;
2. are in line with the scope and purpose of the ITRs as set out in its Article 1, with the understanding that CWG-WCIT-12 could consider proposals for the revision of Article 1 of the ITRs;
3. reflect, inter alia, strategic and policy principles, with a view to ensuring flexibility in order to accommodate technological advances;
4. are of relevance to be included in an international treaty.

In consideration of Resolution 171, Australia will be guided by the following principles when assessing proposals to amend the ITRs:

1. The ITRs establish environmental settings for the interconnection and interoperability of telecommunication networks.
2. Proposals are consistent with the ITU Constitution and Convention.
3. Proposals are consistent with the purpose and scope of the ITRs as established in Article 1.
4. The ITRs are flexible, technology neutral and avoid technical issues that are more appropriately addressed by Resolutions and ITU-T Recommendations.
5. Proposals do not compromise the efficient operation of telecommunication services, or result in unforeseen negative consequences for business, consumers or the future development of international telecommunications.
6. Proposals are consistent with WTO Agreements, in particular the General Agreement on Trade in Services (GATS).
7. **Discussion of Australian Principles**

The ITRs were established at the World Administrative Telegraph and Telephone Conference (WATTC-88) in 1988 as the successor to the Telegraph Regulations (1973) and Telephone Regulations (1973).

The purpose of the ITRs, as stated in Article 1 of the treaty, is to establish general principles relating to the provision and operation of international telecommunications. The ITRs were also established with a view to facilitate interconnection and interoperability of telecommunications, to promote harmonious development and efficient operation of technical facilities, and to promote the efficiency, usefulness and availability of international telecommunications to the public.

Australia considers that the principles which guided the development of the ITRs in 1988 remain relevant, such as the need to be technology neutral, flexible and to create environmental settings that promote the development of international telecommunication services to their most efficient operation. Support for ‘special arrangements’ within the ITRs (Article 9) also assisted in the natural evolution towards the international telecommunications market experienced today.

The telecommunications environment has undergone significant changes since the ITRs were established. At the time, state-run telecommunications monopolies were the norm and the ITRs were necessary to establish a framework by which telecommunications operators could interconnect. Today, telecommunications markets have been largely privatised and liberalised.

Despite the dramatic changes to the telecommunications environment, the purpose and intent of the ITRs remain the same. The ITRs are, and should remain, a technology neutral treaty which establishes a framework for the efficient transfer of international telecommunications traffic.

Australia recognises the importance of the ITRs and supports a treaty that continues to establish principles for the interconnection and interoperability of international telecommunication networks.

A technology neutral approach to the ITRs can accommodate changes to international services without the need for constant revision, supporting the delivery of a wide range of content and services in response to consumer demand.

Treaty-based regulation can be inflexible and difficult to modify. The continued relevance of the current ITRs in a changing telecommunications environment demonstrates the success of a principles-based approach.

Governments should continue to have responsibility for regulating telecommunications, as stipulated in the Preamble of both the ITU Constitution and the ITRs. Proposals which seek to direct the actions of private parties or influence national regulatory matters are outside the scope and purpose of the ITRs.

Australia is mindful of ensuring that proposals to regulate international telecommunications are subject to appropriate policy and regulatory process. This includes consideration of a range of options to achieve the desired outcome and analysis of the likely economic, social and environmental consequences of the option to be undertaken.

Proposals to amend the ITRs should ensure that the benefits to the community (including to business and consumers) of any new policy or regulation outweigh the costs. It is also important to ensure that proposals to amend the ITRs would promote the most efficient operation of international telecommunication services.

1. **Proposals for the work of the conference**

**NOC** AUS/17/1**#10895**

INTERNATIONAL TELECOMMUNICATION  
REGULATIONS

**Reasons:** The title of the ITRs should be retained without changes.

**NOC** AUS/17/2**#10896**

PREAMBLE

**Reasons:** The title of the Preamble should be retained without changes.

**MOD** AUS/17/3**#10897**

1 While the sovereign right of each State to regulate its telecommunications is fully recognized, the provisions of the present International Telecommunication Regulations, hereafter referred to as Regulations, complement the Constitution and Convention of the International Telecommunication Union, with a view to attaining the purposes of the International Telecommunication Union in promoting the development of telecommunication services and their most efficient operation while harmonizing the development of facilities for world-wide telecommunications.

**Reasons:** To align the text of the Preamble with the Preamble and Article 4(3) of the CS.

**NOC** AUS/17/4**#10898**

Article 1

Purpose and Scope of the Regulations

**Reasons:** The title of Article 1 should be retained without changes.

**MOD** AUS/17/5

2 1.1 *a)* These Regulations establish general principles which relate to the provision and operation of international telecommunication services offered to the public as well as to the underlying international telecommunication transport means used to provide such services. Member States may apply these Regulations to their recognized operating agencies, except if required to by the Constitution.

**MOD** AUS/17/6**#10904**

3 *b)* These Regulations recognize in Article 9 the right of Member States to allow special arrangements.

**NOC** AUS/17/7**#10911**

4 1.2 In these Regulations, “the public” is used in the sense of the population, including governmental and legal bodies.

**Reasons:** This provision is an enduring principle that does not require change.

**NOC** AUS/17/8**#10912**

5 1.3 These Regulations are established with a view to facilitating global interconnection and interoperability of telecommunication facilities and to promoting the harmonious development and efficient operation of technical facilities, as well as the efficiency, usefulness and availability to the public of international telecommunication services.

**Reasons:** This provision is an enduring principle that does not require change.

**MOD** AUS/17/9**#11411**

6 1.4 References to ITU-T Recommendations in these Regulations are not to be taken as giving to those Recommendations the same legal status as the Regulations.

**Reasons:** To reflect the fact that there are no longer any Instructions.

**MOD** AUS/17/10**#10918**

7 1.5 Within the framework of the present Regulations, the provision and operation of international telecommunication services is pursuant to mutual agreement between Member States or their recognized operating agencies.

**Reasons:** To reflect the modern telecommunications environment.

**MOD** AUS/17/11

8 1.6 In implementing the principles of these Regulations, Member States should comply with, to the greatest extent practicable, the relevant ITU-T Recommendations.

**Reasons:** To reflect the fact that there are no longer any Instructions.

**MOD** AUS/17/12

9 1.7 *a)* These Regulations recognize the right of any Member State, subject to national law and should it decide to do so, to require that recognized operating agencies, which operate in its territory and provide an international telecommunication service to the public, be authorized by that Member.

**MOD** AUS/17/13

10 *b)* The Member State concerned shall, as appropriate, encourage the application of relevant ITU-T Recommendations by such service providers.

**SUP** AUS/17/14

**Reasons:** This provision is no longer required.

**NOC** AUS/17/15**#10934**

12 1.8 The Regulations shall apply, regardless of the means of transmission used, so far as the Radio Regulations do not provide otherwise.

**Reasons:** This is an enduring principle that does not require change.

**NOC** AUS/17/16**#10937**

Article 2

Definitions

**Reasons:** The title of Article 2 should be retained without changes.

**NOC** AUS/17/17**#10938**

13 For the purpose of these Regulations, the following definitions shall apply. These terms and definitions do not, however, necessarily apply for other purposes.

**NOC** AUS/17/18**#10939**

14 2.1 *Telecommunication:* Any transmission, emission or reception of signs, signals, writing, images and sounds or intelligence of any nature by wire, radio, optical or other electromagnetic systems.

**NOC** AUS/17/19**#10944**

15 2.2 *International telecommunication service:* The offering of a telecommunication capability between telecommunication offices or stations of any nature that are in or belong to different countries.

**MOD** AUS/17/20

16 2.3 *Government telecommunication:* A telecommunication originating with any: Head of State; Head of government or members of a government; Commanders-in-Chief of military forces, land, sea or air; diplomatic or consular agents; the Secretary-General of the United Nations; Heads of the principal organs of the United Nations; the International Court of Justice, or replies to government telecommunications mentioned above.

**Reasons:** To align the text with the CS (Annex 1014).

**SUP** AUS/17/21**#10951**

**Reasons:** No longer required given AUS/17/18.

**SUP** AUS/17/22**#10953**

**Reasons:** These provisions are no longer current or required.

**NOC** AUS/17/23**#10954**

21 2.6 *International route:* Technical facilities and installations located in different countries and used for telecommunication traffic between two international telecommunication terminal exchanges or offices.

**SUP** AUS/17/24**#10959**

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**Reasons:** This definition would no longer be required given AUS/17/9, AUS/17/23, AUS/17/45, AUS/17/46, AUS/17/48.

**SUP** AUS/17/25**#10961**

**Reasons:** This provision is no longer current or required given AUS/17/48, AUS/17/49 and AUS/17/67.

**MOD** AUS/17/26

26 2.9 *Collection charge:* The charge established and collected by a recognized operating agency from its customers for the use of an international telecommunication service.

**SUP** AUS/17/27**#10966**

**Reasons:** This provision is no longer current or required.

**NOC** AUS/17/28**#11002**

Article 3

International Network

**Reasons:** The title of Article 3 should be retained without changes.

**MOD** AUS/17/29**#11005**

28 3.1 Member States shall encourage recognized operating agencies to cooperate in the establishment, operation and maintenance of the international network to provide a satisfactory quality of service.

**Reasons:** To reflect the modern telecommunications environment.

**MOD** AUS/17/30

29 3.2 Member States shall encourage recognized operating agencies to provide sufficient telecommunication facilities to meet the requirements of and demand for international telecommunication services.

**Reasons:** To reflect the modern telecommunications environment.

**MOD** AUS/17/31

30 3.3 Member States shall allow recognized operating agencies to determine by mutual agreement which international routes are to be used. Pending agreement, the origin recognized operating agency has the choice to determine the routing of its outgoing telecommunication traffic, taking into account the interests of the relevant transit and destination recognized operating agency.

**Reasons:** To reflect the modern telecommunications environment.

**MOD** AUS/17/32

31 3.4 Subject to national law, any user, by having access to the international network established by a recognized operating agency, has the right to send traffic. A satisfactory quality of service should be maintained to the greatest extent practicable, corresponding to relevant ITU-T Recommendations.

**Reasons:** To reflect the modern telecommunications environment.

**NOC** AUS/17/33**#11052**

Article 4

International Telecommunication Services

**Reasons:** The title of Article 4 should be retained without changes.

**MOD** AUS/17/34**#11423**

32 4.1 Member States recognize that the implementation and development of international telecommunication services needs to be promoted. Member States shall endeavour to ensure that such services are made generally available to the public in their national network(s).

**Reasons:** To reflect the modern telecommunications environment and the present role of many Member States where their telecommunications markets are now privatised.

**MOD** AUS/17/35**#11424**

33 4.2 Member States shall, to the extent possible ensure that recognized operating agencies cooperate within the framework of these Regulations to provide by mutual agreement, a wide range of international telecommunication services which should conform, to the greatest extent practicable, to the relevant ITU-T Recommendations.

**Reasons:** To reflect the modern telecommunications environment.

**MOD** AUS/17/36**#11425**

34 4.3 Subject to national law, Member States shall endeavour to ensure that recognized operating agencies provide and maintain, to the greatest extent practicable, a minimum quality of service corresponding to the relevant ITU-T Recommendations with respect to:

**Reasons:** To reflect the modern telecommunications environment.

**NOC** AUS/17/37**#11065**

35 *a)* access to the international network by users using terminals which are permitted to be connected to the network and which do not cause harm to technical facilities and personnel;

**NOC** AUS/17/38**#11069**

36 *b)* international telecommunication facilities and services available to customers for their dedicated use;

**NOC** AUS/17/39**#11071**

37 *c)* at least a form of telecommunication which is reasonably accessible to the public, including those who may not be subscribers to a specific telecommunication service; and

**Reasons:** These provisions (No. 35 to 37) are enduring principles that do not require change.

**MOD** AUS/17/40**#11075**

38 *d)* a capability for interworking between different services, as appropriate, to facilitate international telecommunication services.

**Reasons:** To improve consistency with the rest of the Regulations.

**NOC** AUS/17/41**#11430**

Article 5

Safety of Life and Priority of Telecommunications

**Reasons:** The title of Article 5 should be retained without changes.

**MOD** AUS/17/42

39 5.1 Safety of life telecommunications, such as distress telecommunications, shall be entitled to transmission as of right and shall, where technically practicable, have absolute priority over all other telecommunications, in accordance with the relevant Articles of the Constitution and taking due account of relevant ITU-T Recommendations.

**Reasons:** The relevant Articles on priority of safety of life telecommunications are in the CS only.

**MOD** AUS/17/43

40 5.2 Government telecommunications, including telecommunications relative to the application of certain provisions of the United Nations Charter, shall, where technically practicable, enjoy priority over telecommunications other than those referred to in No. 39, in accordance with the relevant provisions of the Constitution and taking due account of relevant ITU-T Recommendations.

**Reasons:** The relevant Articles on priority of Government telecommunications are in the CS only.

**MOD** AUS/17/44

41 5.3 The provisions governing the priority enjoyed by all other telecommunications are contained in the relevant ITU-T Recommendations.

**MOD** AUS/17/45**#11129**

Article 6

International Telecommunication Service Charges

**MOD** AUS/17/46

## **42** 6.1 Charges subject to commercial agreement

**MOD** AUS/17/47**#11133**

43 6.1.1 Subject to applicable national law, the terms and conditions for international telecommunication service arrangements between recognized operating agencies (including charges for those services) shall be subject to commercial agreement.

**Reasons:** To reflect the modern telecommunications environment and provide flexibility for commercial entities to conclude agreements relating to charging for international telecommunication services.

**SUP** AUS/17/48**#11141**

**Reasons:** No longer appropriate in the modern telecommunications environment for Member States to be directing the activities of private commercial entities.

**NOC** AUS/17/49**#11142**

45 6.1.3 Where, in accordance with the national law of a country, a fiscal tax is levied on collection charges for international telecommunication services, this tax shall normally be collected only in respect of international services billed to customers in that country, unless other arrangements are made to meet special circumstances.

**Reasons:** This is an enduring principle that specifies how double taxation on international telecommunication services is to be avoided, provides appropriate flexibility for Member States, and is technology neutral. As such, it does not require change

**SUP** AUS/17/50**#11156**

**SUP** AUS/17/51**#11159**

**SUP** AUS/17/52**#11165**

**SUP** AUS/17/53**#12850**

**Reasons:** These provisions (No. 47 to 54) are obsolete and no longer required in the modern telecommunications environment.

**NOC** AUS/17/54**#11213**

Article 7

Suspension of Services

**Reasons:** The title of Article 7 should be retained without changes.

**MOD** AUS/17/55

55 7.1 If a Member State exercises its right in accordance with the Constitution to suspend international telecommunication services partially or totally, that Member State shall immediately notify the Secretary-General of the suspension and of the subsequent return to normal conditions by the most appropriate means of communication.

**Reasons:** The provision regarding the suspension of services only appears in the Constitution.

**MOD** AUS/17/56**#11215**

56 7.2 The Secretary-General shall immediately bring such information to the attention of all other Member States, using the most appropriate means of communication.

**SUP** AUS/17/57

**SUP** AUS/17/58**#11219**

**Reasons:** Article 8 is no longer required. Similar text is found in Articles 5 (o) and (p) of the CV. Furthermore, information sharing as part of the capacity building work of the ITU is undertaken in accordance with decisions of the relevant assembly/conference for each Sector.

**NOC** AUS/17/59**#11223**

Article 9

Special Arrangements

**Reasons:** The title of the Article should be retained without changes.

**MOD** AUS/17/60**#11225**

58 9.1 *a)* Pursuant to Article 42 of the Constitution special arrangements may be entered into on telecommunication matters which do not concern Member States in general. Subject to national laws, Member States may allow recognized operating agencies or other organizations or persons to enter into such special mutual arrangements with Member States or other organizations or persons that are so allowed in another Member State for the establishment, operation, and use of special telecommunication networks, systems and services, in order to meet specialized international telecommunication needs within and/or between the territories of the Member States concerned, and including, as necessary, those financial, technical, or operating conditions to be observed.

**MOD** AUS/17/61**#11229**

59 *b)* Any such special arrangements should avoid technical harm to the operation of telecommunication facilities.

**Reasons:** To clarify that all technical harm should be avoided.

**MOD** AUS/17/62

60 9.2 Members should, where appropriate, encourage the parties to any special arrangements that are made pursuant to No. 58 to take into account relevant provisions of ITU-T Recommendations.

**MOD** AUS/17/63**#11439**

Article 10

Entry into force and provisional application of the Final Acts

**Reasons:** To reflect the proposed new content for the Article and align it with the CS.

**MOD** AUS/17/64

61 10.1 These Regulations, of which Appendix 1 forms an integral part, shall enter into force on 1 July 2014 at 0001 hours UTC.

**MOD** AUS/17/65**#11362**

62 10.2 On the date specified in No. 61 (10.1), the International Telecommunication Regulations (Melbourne, 1988) shall be replaced by these International Telecommunication Regulations (Dubai, 2012) .

**MOD** AUS/17/66**#11364**

63 10.3 If a Member State makes reservations with regard to the application of one or more of the provisions of these Regulations, other Member States and their recognized operating agencies\* are not obliged to abide by the said provision or provisions in their relations with the Member State which has made such reservations and itsrecognized operating agencies.

**Reasons:** To align the English text with the French text (« ne sont pas obligés d’observer »).

**MOD** AUS/17/67**#11365**

64 10.4 Member States of the Union shall inform the Secretary-General of their consent to be bound by the International Telecommunication Regulations adopted by the Conference. The Secretary-General shall inform Member States promptly of the receipt of such notifications of consent.

**Reasons:** To more accurately reflect the legal position as expressed in the CS.

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**MOD** AUS/17/68**#11366**

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, the delegates of the Member States of the International Telecommunication Union named below have, on behalf of their respective competent authorities, signed one copy of the present Final Acts in the Arabic, Chinese, English, French, Russian and Spanish languages. This copy shall remain in the archives of the Union. The Secretary-General shall forward one certified copy to each Member State of the International Telecommunication Union.

Done at Dubai, 14 December 2012.

**SUP** AUS/17/69**#11252**

**Reasons:** The provisions of Appendix 1 are no longer required in the modern telecommunications environment.

**NOC** AUS/17/70**#11296**

APPENDIX 2

Additional Provisions Relating to  
Maritime Telecommunications

**Reasons:** The title of Appendix 2 should be retained without changes. Australia proposes to retain Appendix 2 as a whole due to its continued relevance for the settlement of accounts in maritime telecommunications.

**NOC** AUS/17/71

# **2/1** 1 General

**MOD** AUS/17/72**#11300**

2/2 The provisions contained in this Appendix shall apply to maritimetelecommunications. Member States should encourage recognized operating agencies to comply with the relevant ITU-T Recommendations when establishing and settling accounts under this Appendix.

**NOC** AUS/17/73**#11301**

# **2/3** 2 Accounting authority

**NOC** AUS/17/74**#11302**

2/4 2.1 Charges for maritime telecommunications in the maritime mobile service and the maritime mobile-satellite service shall in principle, and subject to national law and practice, be collected from the maritime mobile station licensee:

**MOD** AUS/17/75

2/5 *a)* by the Member State that has issued the licence; or

**MOD** AUS/17/76

2/6 *b)* by a recognized operating agency; or

**MOD** AUS/17/77

2/7 *c)* by any other entity or entities designated for this purpose by the Member State referred to in *a)* above.

**MOD** AUS/17/78

2/8 2.2 The recognized operating agency or the designated entity or entities listed in paragraph 2.1 are referred to in this Appendix as the “accounting authority”.

**SUP** AUS/17/79

**Reasons:** This provision would no longer be required given AUS/17/45, AUS/17/46 and AUS/17/48 to AUS/17/50.

**MOD** AUS/17/80

2/10 2.4 Member States shall designate their accounting authority or authorities for the purposes of implementing this Appendix and notify their names, identification codes and addresses to the Secretary-General for inclusion in the List of Ship Stations; the number of such names and addresses shall be limited taking into account the relevant ITU-T Recommendations.

**NOC** AUS/17/81

# **2/11** 3 Establishment of accounts

**NOC** AUS/17/82

2/12 3.1 In principle, an account shall be considered as accepted without the need for specific notification of acceptance to the accounting authority that sent it.

**NOC** AUS/17/83

2/13 3.2 However, any accounting authority has the right to question the contents of an account for a period of six calendar months after dispatch of the account.

**NOC** AUS/17/84

# **2/14** 4 Settlement of balances of account

**NOC** AUS/17/85

2/15 4.1 All international maritime telecommunication accounts shall be paid by the accounting authority without delay and in any case within six calendar months after dispatch of the account, except where the settlement of accounts is undertaken in accordance with paragraph 4.3 below.

**MOD** AUS/17/86

2/16 4.2 If international maritime telecommunication accounts remain unpaid after six calendar months, the Member State that has licensed the mobile station shall, on request, take all possible steps, within the limits of applicable national law, to ensure settlement of the accounts from the licensee.

**NOC** AUS/17/87

2/17 4.3 If the period between the date of dispatch and receipt exceeds one month, the receiving accounting authority should at once notify the originating accounting authority that queries and payments may be delayed. The delay shall, however, not exceed three calendar months in respect of payment, or five calendar months in respect of queries, both periods commencing from the date of receipt of the account.

**MOD** AUS/17/88

2/18 4.4 The debtor accounting authority may refuse the settlement and adjustment of accounts presented more than twelve calendar months after the date of the traffic to which the accounts relate.

**SUP** AUS/17/89

**Reasons:** The provisions of Appendix 3 are no longer required in the modern telecommunications environment. In addition, the concept of privilege telecommunications is obsolete.