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| **Expert Group on International Telecommunication Regulations (EG‑ITRs)** |  |
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| Regional Commonwealth in the field of Communications |
| PROPOSALS regarding REVIEW AND revision of the 2012 ITRs |
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Introduction

The World Conference on International Telecommunications (WCIT) in 2012 (Dubai, UAE) revised the 1988 International Telecommunication Regulations (ITRs).

However, given that before 2012 the ITRs had not been revised for 24 years, WCIT for objective reasons was not able to discuss adequately and achieve a compromise on all the proposals received from ITU Member States and Sector Members and take into account all current trends in telecommunications.

This offers us an excellent opportunity now, on the basis of contributions received from Member States and Sector Members, to examine and exchange information on issues not adequately reflected in the 2012 ITRs and present it in the final report of the Group of Experts on the International Telecommunication Regulations (EG-ITR) for consideration by Council in 2018 with a view to advancing the revision of the 2012 ITRs.

Proposals

In the light of the above, and considering the terms of reference of the EG-ITR, we consider that the following proposals from the RCC should be considered:

I) As a basic approach to reviewing the ITRs, we propose examining the main body of the 2012 Regulations as the basic text which must contain the main high-level provisions. Texts contained in the current appendices, as well as possible new annexes to a future version of the ITRs, must indicate the general provisions of the relevant ITR articles and reflect corresponding progress made in the work of ITU-T on each of the work items and standards dealt with in the relevant ITU-T Recommendations.

II) As regards priority focus areas for the revision of the 2012 ITRs, which need to be clarified in the future ITRs, we suggest including the points indicated in the following sections.

# 1 Article 2 "Definitions"

Clarify the definition of the entities to which the ITRs are applicable other than Member States, namely "authorized operating agencies"[[1]](#footnote-1) and "operating agencies", and their interpretation under the terms of Article 5 *c)* of the Constitution (No. 36).

Consider new definitions for inclusion in the ITRs, such as:

• International network

• International telecommunication numbering, naming, addressing, and call-origin identification systems

• Unsolicited bulk communications (spam)

• International roaming

• Misuse/fraud/other action relating to illegal appropriation and misuse of international telecommunication numbering, naming, addressing, and identification resources), calling party number delivery, international calling line identification and origin identification

• Regional exchange point

• OTT, etc.

# 2 Article 3 "International network"

Add to the text of this article, or include in an appropriate annex, the following items:

• Counteracting and combating misappropriation and misuse of international telecommunication numbering, naming, addressing, and identification resources

• Country code top–level domain names

• Conformance and interoperability of international telecommunication networks

• Calling party number delivery, international calling line identification and origin identification

• The right of Member States to know which international routes are used for carrying traffic

• Service traffic termination and exchange in international telecommunications

• Establishment, operation and protection of telecommunication channels and installations (Article 38 of the Constitution (Cs/Nos. 186-189A), §§ 3.7‑3.11)

• Traffic management principles

• Safeguarding confidentiality of international telecommunications and associated traffic.

# 3 Article 4 "International telecommunication services"

Add to the text of this article, or include in an appropriate annex, the following items:

• Alternative calling procedures in international telecommunication networks

• OTT

• Classification of international telecommunication services covered by No. 63 (§ 8.3) "Taxation". For example: services for carrying traffic; international roaming services; services for the provision of telecommunication channels; services in the public international telegraph service; services in the international telex service; telematic telecommunication services; convergent telecommunication services.

• Protection of users of international telecommunication services, including issues of Quality of Service, confidentiality of communications and protection of personal data

• International roaming

• Services pertaining to the Internet of things and smart cities and communities

• Conformance and interoperability of international telecommunication services

• International telecommunication services with a specified Quality of Service.

# 4 Article 5 "Safety of life and priority of telecommunications"

Add to the text of the Article, or include in a suitable annex, the following:

• Global harmonization of national numbers for access to emergency services

• Ensuring accessibility of emergency call services for users in different regions, including issues of time spent in roaming when using data networks.

# 5 Article 6 "Unsolicited bulk electronic communications"

In connection with the question of including a new definition in Article 2 on this question, the title of the article could be changed to "Unsolicited bulk electronic communications, spam".

The following item should be added to the article or included in an annex: Countering and combating Spam.

# 6 Article 8 "Charging and accounting"

Add to the text of the article and include in appropriate Annexes 1 and/or 2 the following:

• General principles of charging and account settlement for international telecommunication services

• Settlement of accounts for international telecommunication roaming services

• Avoidance of double taxation

• Settlement of disputes.

# 7 Article 9 "Suspension of services"

The title of the article should be reworded along the following lines: "Suspension of services and cessation of telecommunications".

Add to the text of the article or include in a suitable annex the following items:

• Suspension of telecommunication services in order to comply with the terms of Article 5 of the 2012 ITRs concerning priority of international telecommunications, in particular in connection with the protection of life

• Suspension of telecommunication services in order to comply with national security legislation of Member States prohibiting the dissemination of communications that could pose a threat to the security of the Member State or be contrary to its laws, public order or decency.

• Suspension of telecommunication services (services that are no longer supported).

# 8 Article 11 "Energy efficiency/e-waste"

The title of the article should be as follows: "Energy efficiency, e-waste and the environment".

Add to the text of the article or include in a suitable annex the following:

• Telecommunications, the environment and climate change

• The role of telecommunications in handling and controlling e-waste from telecommunication and IT devices and methods of processing such waste.

# 9 Article 12 "Accessibility"

Add to the text of the Article or include in a suitable annex the following:

• Access of Member States, "authorized operating agencies", and users, to Internet and telecommunication resources and/or information-communication technologies and their use on a non-discriminatory basis

• Internationalized (multilingual) domain names.

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1. Here and subsequently the term is placed in quotation marks as being used only in the 2012 ITRs. [↑](#footnote-ref-1)