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| **Plenipotentiary Conference (PP-22) Bucharest, 26 September – 14 October 2022** |  |
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| PLENARY MEETING | **Addendum 26 to Document 76-E** |
|  | **1 September 2022** |
|  | **Original: English** |
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| Member States of the Inter-American Telecommunication Commission (CITEL) | |
| IAP 26 - PROPOSAL TO MODIFY RESOLUTION 176 ON | |
| Measurement and assessment concerns related to human exposure to electromagnetic fields | |
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**Abstract:**

The proposal aims to update PP Resolution 176 to align and harmonize changes in WTSA-22 and WTDC-22. The streamlining of ITU Sectoral Resolutions reduces duplication and increases efficiencies and effectiveness in the fulfilment of the Union’s purposes and missions.

CITEL proposes to modify PP Resolution 176 to reflect the updated text change in the latest version of WTSA Resolution 72 and WTDC Resolution 62 on measurement and assessment concerns related human exposure to electromagnetic fields.

MOD IAP/76A26/1

RESOLUTION 176 (Rev. bucharest, 2022)

Measurement and assessment concerns related to human exposure to electromagnetic fields

The Plenipotentiary Conference of the International Telecommunication Union (Bucharest, 2022),

recalling

*a)* Resolution 72 (Rev. Geneva, 2022) of the World Telecommunication Standardization Assembly (WTSA), on measurement and assessment concerns related to human exposure to electromagnetic fields (EMF);

*b)* Resolution 62 (Rev. Kigali, 2022) of the World Telecommunication Development Conference, on assessment and measurement of human exposure to EMF;

*c)* relevant resolutions and recommendations of the ITU Radiocommunication Sector (ITU‑R) and ITU Telecommunication Standardization Sector (ITU‑T);

*d)* that there is ongoing work in the three Sectors relating to human exposure to EMF, and that liaison and collaboration between the Sectors and with other expert organizations are important, in order to avoid duplication of effort,

considering

*a)* that the World Health Organization (WHO) has the specialized health expertise and competence to assess the impact of radio waves on the human body;

*b)* that WHO recommends exposure limits from international organizations such as the International Commission on Non‑Ionizing Radiation Protection (ICNIRP);

*c)* that ITU has expertise in a mechanism to verify compliance with levels of radio signals by calculating and measuring field strength and power density of these signals;

*d)* the high cost of equipment used for measuring and assessing human exposure to EMF;

*e)* that the considerable development in the use of the radio frequency spectrum has resulted in an increase in the sources of emission of electromagnetic fields in a given geographic area;

*f)* the urgent need for regulatory bodies in many developing countries[[1]](#footnote-1)1 to obtain information on measurement and assessment methodologies in regard to human exposure to radio-frequency (RF) and EMF energy, in order to establish national regulations to protect their citizens;

*g)* that people, without adequate and accurate information, public awareness and/or appropriate regulation, particularly in developing countries, may have concerns about the effect of EMF on their health, which may result in them opposing the deployment of radio installations in their vicinity and demanding additional restrictions without scientific and technical basis that affect negatively the necessary and timely deployment of wireless infrastructure;

*h)* that guidelines on limits of exposure to EMF have been established by ICNIRP[[2]](#footnote-2)2, the Institute of Electrical and Electronics Engineers (IEEE)[[3]](#footnote-3)3 and the International Organization for Standardization/International Electrotechnical Commission (ISO/IEC), and that many administrations have adopted national regulations based on these guidelines; however there is a need to harmonize EMF guidelines for regulators and policy-makers to help them formulate national standards;

*i)* that most of the developing countries do not have the necessary tools to measure and evaluate the impact of radiowaves on the human body,

resolves to instruct the Directors of the three Bureaux

1 to collect and disseminate information concerning exposure to EMF, including on EMF measurement methodologies, in order to assist national administrations, particularly in developing countries, to develop appropriate national regulations;

2 to work closely with all relevant organizations engaged on this topic and to leverage their output in the implementation of this resolution, as well as WTSA Resolution 72 (Rev. Geneva, 2022) and WTDC Resolution 62 (Rev. Kigali, 2022), in order to continue and enhance the technical assistance provided to Member States,

instructs the Director of the Telecommunication Development Bureau, in collaboration with the Director of the Radiocommunication Bureau and the Director of the Telecommunication Standardization Bureau

1 to conduct regional or international seminars and workshops in order to identify the needs of developing countries and build human capacity in regard to measurement of EMF related to human exposure to these fields;

2 to encourage Member States in the various regions to cooperate in sharing expertise and resources and identify a focal point or regional cooperation mechanism, including if required a regional centre, so as to assist all Member States in the region in measurement and training;

3 to continue to cooperate with the World Health Organization (WHO), the International Commission on Non-Ionizing Radiation Protection (ICNIRP), the Institute of Electrical and Electronics Engineers (IEEE) and other relevant international organizations on guidelines and limits of human exposure to EMF, and to raise awareness and disseminate information to the ITU membership and the public with regard to human exposure to EMF;

4 to encourage relevant organizations to continue undertaking necessary scientific studies to investigate possible health effects of EMF radiation on the human body;

5 to formulate necessary measures and guidelines in order to help mitigate possible health effects of EMF radiation on the human body;

6 to encourage Member States to conduct periodic reviews to ensure that ITU recommendations and other relevant international standards related to exposure to EMF are followed,

instructs the Director of the Telecommunication Standardization Bureau, in collaboration with the Director of the Radiocommunication Bureau and the Director of the Telecommunication Development Bureau

to participate in the Electromagnetic Field Project, conducted by WHO, as part of collaborative efforts with other international organizations to encourage the development of international standards for EMF exposure,

instructs the Secretary-General, in consultation with the Directors of the three Bureaux

1 to prepare a report on the implementation of this resolution for submission to the ITU Council at each annual session for evaluation;

2 to provide a report to the next plenipotentiary conference on measures taken to implement this resolution,

invites Member States, especially developing countries

1 to take the appropriate measures to ascertain compliance with guidelines produced by ITU and other relevant international organizations with respect to exposure to EMF;

2 to implement subregional cooperation mechanisms for acquisition of the requisite equipment to measure EMF;

3 to raise public awareness of the health effects of human exposure to non-ionizing EMF, by conducting awareness-raising campaigns, holding workshops, publishing brochures and providing online information on the subject.

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1. 1 These include the least developed countries, small island developing states, landlocked developing countries and countries with economies in transition. [↑](#footnote-ref-1)
2. 2 Guidelines for limiting exposure to time-varying electric, magnetic and electromagnetic fields (up to 300 GHz). Health Physics 74(4): 494-522; 1998. [↑](#footnote-ref-2)
3. 3 IEEE Std C95.1™-2005, IEEE standard for safety levels with respect to human exposure to radio frequency electromagnetic fields, 3 kHz to 300 GHz. [↑](#footnote-ref-3)