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| **Agenda item: ADM 1** | **Document C25/82-E** |
| **2 June 2025** |
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| Contribution by Angola, Botswana, Comoros, Eswatini, Lesotho, Madagascar, Malawi, Mauritius, Mozambique, Namibia, Dem. Rep. of the Congo, Seychelles, South Africa, Tanzania, Zambia, and Zimbabwe | |
| PROPOSAL FOR EXEMPTION OF COST RECOVERY FEE FOR SEVEN SUBMISSIONS UNDER RESOLUTION 170 (REV.WRC-23) BY THE ADMINISTRATION OF ANGOLA ACTING ON BEHALF OF 16 SADC MEMBER STATES | |
| **Purpose**  To propose the exemption of seven (7) coordination filing submissions - to be submitted under Resolution **170 (Rev.WRC-23)** - from cost recovery fee, as they will be filed by the Administration of Angola on behalf of 16 SADC Member States.  **Action required by the Council**  The Council is requested **to consider** and **approve** the proposal presented in this contribution.  \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_  **References**  [*UNGA Resolution 76/3*](https://www.unoosa.org/oosa/oosadoc/data/resolutions/2021/general_assembly_76th_session/ares763.html)*; Resolutions* [*30 (Rev. Bucharest, 2022)*](https://www.itu.int/en/council/Documents/basic-texts-2023/RES-030-E.pdf)*,* [*140 (Rev. Bucharest, 2022)*](https://www.itu.int/en/council/Documents/basic-texts-2023/RES-140-E.pdf)*,* [*200 (Rev. Bucharest, 2022)*](https://www.itu.int/en/council/Documents/basic-texts-2023/RES-200-E.pdf)*,* [*203 (Rev. Bucharest, 2022)*](https://www.itu.int/en/council/Documents/basic-texts-2023/RES-203-E.pdf)*, and* [*218 (Bucharest, 2022)*](https://www.itu.int/en/council/Documents/basic-texts-2023/RES-218-E.pdf) *of the Plenipotentiary Conference.* | |

Since 2018, 16 Administrations from the Southern African Development Community (SADC) Region namely Angola, Botswana, Comoros, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Eswatini, Lesotho, Madagascar, Malawi, Mauritius, Mozambique, Namibia, Seychelles, South Africa, United Republic of Tanzania, Zambia and Zimbabwe have planned to develop a regional shared satellite system to provide essential telecommunication services, including Internet access to schools and villages in their countries.

The SADC Region consists of[[1]](#footnote-1):

* 9 Least Developed Countries (LDCs) by the United Nations, namely: Angola, Comoros, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Lesotho, Madagascar, Malawi, Mozambique, United Republic of Tanzania and Zambia;
* 4 Small Island Developing States (SIDS), namely: Comoros, Madagascar, Mauritius and Seychelles; and
* 6 Landlocked Developing Countries (LLDCs), namely: Botswana, Eswatini, Lesotho, Malawi, Zambia and Zimbabwe.

This initiative aligns with the objectives of:

* **Resolution 30 (Rev. Bucharest, 2022)**, which encourages LDCs, SIDS, LLDCs, and countries with economies in transition to prioritize ICT projects that promote socio-economic development and improved international connectivity;
* **Resolution 200 (Rev. Bucharest, 2022)**, which invites Member States to contribute to the implementation of the Connect 2030 Agenda;
* **Resolution 203 (Rev. Bucharest, 2022**), which resolves to work toward universal broadband access;
* **Resolution 218 (Bucharest, 2022)**, which encourages participation in the Space2030 Agenda and efforts supporting the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs); and
* The broader **UN SDGs** and **Space2030 Agenda**.

With the assistance of the ITU Radiocommunications Bureau, these 16 Administrations have explored various ways to secure a suitable orbital position for their shared satellite system. It was concluded that applying Resolution **170 (Rev.WRC-23)** offers better chances of success than applying current normal procedures as contained in Articles 9 and 11 for non-planned space services, Appendices **30** and **30A** for additional uses and Appendix **30B** for additional systems.

Although there have been extensive efforts by the 16 SADC Member States including the assistance by the Bureau, there is still high uncertainty in finding a suitable orbital position for applying Resolution **170 (Rev.WRC-23)** considering that it can be applied only once.

Noting the purpose of adopting Resolution **170** by WRC-19 and the impossibility of selecting a single optimal orbital position without starting frequency coordination with the Administrations potentially affected, the 16 SADC Member States submitted a request (<https://www.itu.int/md/R24-RRB24.3-C-0019/en>) to the 97th meeting of the Radio Regulations Board (RRB) to allow the Administration of Angola, acting on behalf of Administrations of the 16 SADC Member States, to submit eight (8) Coordination Filings. The RRB has acceded to that request (<https://www.itu.int/md/R24-RRB24.3-C-0023/en>).

The Expert Group on Decision **482** (EG-DEC482), in its final report to the ITU Council (Document [C25/10](https://www.itu.int/md/S25-CL-C-0010/en)) indicated that submissions under Resolution **170** are eligible for free entitlement per year. Therefore, the SADC Region must cover cost recovery fees for the remaining seven (7) coordination filing submissions.

However, this requirement arises from the technical impossibility of selecting a single suitable orbital position, a fact acknowledged by the RRB. Moreover:

* The total of eight (8) coordination filings submissions under Resolution **170 (Rev.WRC-23)** is well within the limit of 16 participating Administrations, each entitled to one cost-free submission per year; and
* Applying cost recovery in this context, especially for efforts benefiting LDCs, SIDS, and LLDCs, undermines ITU’s commitment to equitable access to satellite orbits and the special needs of developing countries, as set out in Resolution **218 (Bucharest, 2022)**, of the Plenipotentiary Conference.

**Proposal:**

In view of the above, the co-signatories respectfully request the ITU Council to exempt seven (7) coordination filing submissions under Resolution 170 (Rev.WRC-23) from cost recovery fee, as they will be filed by the Administration of Angola on behalf of 16 SADC Member States.

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1. *Some countries fall in more than one category and Namibia does not fall in any of the 3 classes* [↑](#footnote-ref-1)