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| Asia-Pacific Telecommunity Member Administrations |
| Proposed modification of WTSA-12 Resolution 72 - Measurement concerns related to human exposure to electromagnetic fields |
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| **Abstract:** | In this document the Asia-Pacific Telecommunity Administrations propose modifications to Resolution 72. |

Introduction

Resolution 72 was adopted at WTSA 2008, revised and consented by 2012. Since WTSA-12, ITU‑T (SG5) has made progress developing and updating several Recommendations which provide not only measurement but also numerical prediction, estimation and calculation techniques for assessing the EMF exposure. There also various studies for mitigation of the exposure, long-term monitoring and emission map has been developed. This key outcomes provide high-level frameworks for the assessment of human exposure to EMFs. So that the title of the Resolution should be revised to reflect the progress of the work done so far.

The Plenipotentiary Conference also updated Resolution 176 (Rev. Busan, 2014) and WTDC 2014 updated Resolution 62 relating to human exposure to EMF, in which there is a need to harmonize EMF guidelines for regulators and policy-makers to help them formulate national standards. Also in the last four years, there has been increasingly development of ICT infrastructure in developing countries which results in needs of regulators, operators, and public to deal with EMF matters.

It is necessary to update Resolution 72 to generally reflect those needs and development the scope of the work done within ITU-T so far.

In addition, at the TSAG meeting in July 2016, TSB introduced guidelines for drafting WTSA Resolutions in which the operational part of Resolutions should specify a reporting mechanism, these guidelines are helpful for drafting effective, implementable and concise Resolutions.

Proposal

APT Member Administrations would like to propose to revise the text of Resolution 72 as provided in annex.

MOD APT/44A19/1

RESOLUTION 72 (REV. HAMMAMET, 2016)

Assessment concerns related to
human exposure to radio frequency electromagnetic fields

(Johannesburg, 2008; Dubai, 2012; Hammamet, 2016)

The World Telecommunication Standardization Assembly (Hammamet, 2016),

considering

*a)* that a significant part of the infrastructure needed to help bridge the digital divide between developed and developing countries[[1]](#footnote-1)1 involves various wireless technologies and that installations of base stations in the appropriate measures to ensure quality of services;

*b)* that there is a need to inform the public of the EMF levels, safety limit along with potential effects of excessive exposure to electromagnetic fields (EMF);

*c)* that an enormous amount of research has been carried out regarding wireless systems and health, and many independent expert committees have reviewed this research;

*d)* that the International Commission on Non-Ionizing Radiation Protection (ICNIRP), the International Electrotechnical Commission (IEC) and the Institute of Electrical and Electronics Engineers (IEEE) are three among a number of pre-eminent international bodies in establishing measurement methodologies for assessing human exposure to EMF, and they already cooperate with many standards bodies and industry forums;

*e)* that the World Health Organization (WHO) has issued fact sheets regarding EMF issues, including mobile terminals, base stations and wireless networks, referencing ICNIRP standards;

*f)* Resolution 176 (Rev. Busan, 2014) of the Plenipotentiary Conference, on human exposure to and measurement of electromagnetic fields;

*g)* Resolution 62 (Rev. Dubai, 2014) of the World Telecommunication Development Conference, on measurement concerns related to human exposure to electromagnetic fields,

recognizing

*a)* the work done within ITU Radiocommunication Sector (ITU‑R) study groups on radiowave propagation, electromagnetic compatibility (EMC) and related aspects, including measurement methods;

*b)* the work done within Study Group 5 of the ITU Telecommunication Standardization Sector (ITU‑T) on techniques for taking radio-frequency (RF) assessment;

*c)* that Study Group 5, in establishing methodologies for assessing human exposure to RF energy, already cooperates with many participating standards organizations (PSOs),

recognizing further

*a)* that some publications about EMF effects on health create doubt among the population, in particular in developing countries;

*b)* that, in the absence of regulation and accurate, complete information provided by state agencies, people, in particular in developing countries, become doubtful of long-term exposure to EMF and are likely opposing the deployment of radio installations in their neighbourhoods;

*c)* that the cost of the equipment used for assessing human exposure to RF energy is still high, and that the advanced equipment is more likely to be affordable only in developed countries;

*d)* that implementing such assessment is essential for many regulatory authorities, in particular in developing countries, in order to monitor the limits for human exposure to RF energy, and that they are called upon to ensure those limits are met in order to license different services;

*e)* the importance of the EMF emission assessment while implementing policies in some countries;

*f)* that additional signage or classification levels introduced by some countries may cause more fears and confusion in people's perception towards EMF and its implications;

*g)* that some countries are introducing their own acceptable EMF Emissions limits,

noting

the similar activities carried out by other national, regional and international standards development organizations (SDOs),

resolves

to invite ITU‑T, in particular Study Group 5, to expand and continue its work and support in this domain, including but not limited to:

i) developing, promoting and disseminating information and training resources related to this topic through organizing training programmes, workshops and seminars for regulators, operators and any interested stakeholders from developing countries;

ii) continuing to cooperate and collaborate with other organizations working on this topic and to leverage their work, in particular with a view to assisting the developing countries in the establishment of standards and in monitoring compliance with these standards, especially on telecommunication installations and terminals;

iii) cooperating on these issues with ITU‑R Study Groups 1 and 6, and with Study Group 1 of the ITU Telecommunication Development Sector (ITU‑D) in the framework of Question 7/2;

iv) strengthening coordination with WHO in EMF project so that any publications relating to human exposure to electromagnetic fields is circulated to Member States as soon as it is issued,

instructs the Director of the Telecommunication Standardization Bureau, in close collaboration with the Directors of the other two Bureaux, and within the available financial resources

1 to support the development of reports identifying the needs of developing countries on the issue of assessing human exposure to EMF, and submit the reports as soon as possible to ITU-T Study Group 5 for its consideration and action in accordance with its mandate;

2 to regularly update the ITU-T portal on EMF activities including, but not limited to, the ITU EMF guide, the websites and the flyers;3 to hold workshops in developing countries with presentations and training on the use of equipment employed in assessing human exposure to RF energy;

4 to extend its support for developing countries while they establish their regional centres equipped with test benches for continuous monitoring of EMF level, especially in the selected area under public concern and transparently provide the data to general public by using, among other things, the modalities listed in Resolutions 44 (Rev. Dubai, 2012) and 76 (Rev. Dubai, 2012) of this assembly, in the context of the development of the regional test centres and of Resolution 177 (Rev. Busan, 2014) of the Plenipotentiary Conference;

5 to provide report to the next WTSA on measures taken to implement this Resolution,

invites Member States and Sector Members

1 to contribute actively to the work of Study Group 5 in providing relevant and timely information in order to assist developing countries in providing information and addressing assessment concerns related to human RF exposure and electromagnetic fields;

2 to apply ITU-T Recommendations to build national standards for assessing EMF levels of base stations and to inform the public of its compliance,

further invites Member States

1 to adopt suitable measures in order to ensure compliance with relevant international recommendations to protect health against the adverse effect of EMF;

2 to use information gathered by assessment, not limited to public perception or understanding, as standards and guidelines, as an implementation policy to educate public before and after the introduction of a new EMF guideline.

1. 1 These include the least developed countries, small island developing states, landlocked developing countries and countries with economies in transition. [↑](#footnote-ref-1)