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| itu_logo | World Telecommunication Standardization Assembly (WTSA-16)Hammamet, 25 October - 3 November 2016 | CCITT/ITU-T 60th Anniversary logo |
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| PLENARY MEETING | Addendum 15 toDocument 46-E |
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| Member States of the Inter-American Telecommunication Commission (CITEL) |
| Proposed modification to WTSA-12 Resolution 72 - Measurement concerns related to human exposure to electromagnetic fields |
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| **Abstract:** | CITEL submitted for consideration a proposal for a modification of the Resolution 72 of the WTSA-12 “Measurement concerns related to human exposure to electromagnetic fields”.  |

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RESOLUTION 72 (REV. HAMMAMET, 2016)

Measurement concerns related to human exposure to electromagnetic fields

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

The World Telecommunication Standardization Assembly (Hammamet, 2016),

considering

*a)* the importance of telecommunications and of information and communication technologies (ICT) for political, economic, social and cultural progress;

*b)* in the framework of telecommunications/ICTs to help bridge the digital divide between developed and developing countries[[1]](#footnote-1)1 a significant part of the infrastructure needed involves various wireless technologies;

*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;

*e)* 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. Busan, 2014) of the World Telecommunication Development Conference, on measurement concerns related to human exposure to electromagnetic fields

h) that it is essential to keep the public informed about the potential effects of human exposure to electromagnetic fields (EMF),

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) measurements;

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

*d)* that the ITU Electromagnetic Field (EMF) Guide, in its digital version, also available in a mobile phone application, updated as ITU and/or WHO receive information and/or results of the research;

*e)* that the Focus Group on Smart Sustainable Cities, established within Study Group 5 of ITU-T, published a Technical Report on “Electromagnetic field (EMF) considerations in smart sustainable cities”,

recognizing further

*a)* that some publications about EMF effects on health create doubt among the population, in particular in developing countries, increasing the perception of the risk they involve;

*b)* that, in the absence of regulation, people, in particular in developing countries, become more and more doubtful, due to their perception of risk, and are increasingly opposing to the deployment of radio installations in their neighbourhoods, demanding the enactment of restrictive municipal rules that affect the deployment of wireless networks;

*c)* c) that the WHO proposes to elaborate a Risk Management plan based on risk assessment and also on the population’s risk perception;

*d)* that the cost of the equipment used for assessing human exposure to RF energy is very high, with the possible consequence that the equipment only be affordable in developed countries;

*e)* that in particular Study Group 5 of the ITU Telecommunication Standardization Sector has elaborated Recommendations on the technical measurement of radiofrequencies (RF) that help to diminish risk perception within the population;

*f)* that the development of these Recommendations has allowed to significantly decrease the cost of measurement equipment based on the social communication of the results

*g)* that implementing such measurement 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,

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) publishing and disseminating its technical reports, as well as elaborating and approving standards and recommendations tending to combat these problems;

ii) disseminating information related to this topic through organizing workshops and seminars for regulators, operators and any interested stakeholders from developing countries;

iii) 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 terminals;

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

v) strengthening coordination with WHO so that any fact sheet 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 hold workshops in developing countries with presentations and training on the use of equipment employed in assessing human exposure to RF energy;

3 to intensify the task of exploring and recommending different mechanisms to help developing countries while they establish their regional centres equipped with test benches for monitoring conformance of telecommunication terminal equipment and human exposure to electromagnetic waves 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,

invites Member States and Sector Members

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 measurement concerns related to RF exposure and electromagnetic fields,

further invites Member States

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

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