

## RECOMMENDATION ITU-D 13

**Effective utilisation of the amateur services<sup>1</sup>  
in disaster mitigation and relief operations<sup>2</sup>***(April, 2001)*

ITU-D Study Group 2,

*considering,*

- a) that the amateur services continue to provide communications for disaster mitigation and relief operations in some countries;
- b) that some countries having natural calamities may not take advantage of disaster communications capabilities of the amateur services;
- c) that effective amateur services disaster communications depend largely on the availability of amateur operators located throughout a country;
- d) that after the occurrence of a natural disaster it has been necessary to bring amateur operators and equipment into a country from other countries;
- e) that barriers to operating permission and to movement of equipment have occurred;
- f) that the Tampere Convention on the Provision of Telecommunications Resources for Disaster Mitigation and Relief Operations adopted by the Intergovernmental Conference on Emergency Telecommunications (Tampere, 1998) established a framework for the reduction and/or removal of these barriers;
- g) that some countries do not have a national framework for the effective utilization of the amateur services for provision of disaster mitigation and relief operations;
- h) that some countries have restrictions applied to the amateur services that impede disaster preparedness, such as prohibitions against transmission of message traffic for a third party during training exercises;

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<sup>1</sup> The amateur service is defined in the Radio Regulations at **S1.56** as A radiocommunication service for the purpose of self-training, intercommunication and technical investigations carried out by amateurs, that is, by duly authorized persons interested in radio technique solely with a personal aim and without pecuniary interest.

<sup>2</sup> After approval this Recommendation should be sent to the ITU-R Study Group 8 for information.

- j) Resolution 19 of the World Telecommunication Development Conference (Valletta, 1998), Telecommunication Resources for Disaster Mitigation and Relief Operations, resolves to invite the ITU-D to ensure that proper consideration be given to emergency telecommunications as an element of telecommunication development, including, in close co-ordination and collaboration with the ITU-R, by facilitating and encouraging the use of decentralised means of communications that are appropriate and generally available, including those provided by the amateur radio services;
- k) Resolution 644 of the World Radiocommunication Conference (Geneva, 1997), Telecommunication Resources for Disaster Mitigation and Relief Operations, resolves to invite the ITU-R to continue to study, as a matter of urgency, those aspects of radiocommunications that are relevant to disaster mitigation and relief operations, such as decentralised means of communications that are appropriate and generally available, including amateur radio facilities;
- l) Recommendation ITU-R M.1042-1 (1998), Disaster Communications in the Amateur and Amateur-Satellite Services encourages the development of such services and of making such networks robust, flexible and independent of other telecommunication services and capable of operating from emergency power;
- m) Resolution 36 of the ITU Plenipotentiary Conference (Minneapolis, 1998) "Telecommunication in the service of humanitarian assistance" urges Member States to take all practical steps for the application of the Tampere Convention,

*recommends*

- 1 that administrations are invited to include the amateur services in their national disaster plans and telecommunication assistance information inventories;
- 2 that administrations are invited to reduce and, where possible, remove, barriers to the effective utilization of the amateur services for disaster communications;
- 3 that amateur and disaster relief organizations are encouraged to develop memoranda of understanding (MoU) between themselves and with Administrations as well as to co-operate, together with other concerned parties, in developing and making available model agreements and best practices in disaster telecommunications<sup>3</sup>.

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<sup>3</sup> Illustrative examples of such agreements are available on request at ITU/BDT.