



Policy and Regulation Initiative for Digital Africa (PRIDA)

The ITU Radio Regulations and National Tables of Frequency Allocation



Capacity building & technical assistance

According to a PRIDA report, less than 30% of the African countries had published a National Table of Frequency Allocation (NTFA) based on the latest version of the ITU Radio Regulations (ITU-RR)¹. The rest of countries, either had NTFA based on the previous versions of ITU-RR or had not published their NTFA.

During the online validation workshop of PRIDA technical reports and guidelines of March 2020, participants indicated that the lack of expertise at some of the national spectrum regulators, the required qualified human resources to update and maintain the NTFA or the awareness about the importance of NTFA could be among the reasons that hold back the national spectrum regulators from having an updated NTFA.

Moreover, 30% of the African countries requested technical assistance on the preparation of NTFA.

To bridge the knowledge gap and to answer the technical assistance requests, PRIDA project management team is planning to conduct the following complementary and mutually enforcing activities:

Activity 1: A comprehensive **capacity building workshop** to be organised with the support of the ITU Radiocommunications Bureau that will be open to all PRIDA beneficiary countries.

Activity 2: Countries wishing to receive direct technical assistance need to nominate at least two experts, including one female, to participate in an **online discussion forum** to go throughout the planned process step by step and to exchange knowledge with other participants (the forum will last for 4 weeks).

Activity 3: wrap-up workshop will be organised to provide summary of the previous activities, the way forward and to give the participants the chance to share knowledge and experiences gained throughout the process.

Activity	Date
1- Capacity building workshop	May 24-27, 2021
2- Online discussion forum	4 weeks in June, 2021
3- Wrap-up workshop	Last week of June/ First week of July

More details about the above activities are provided in the attached Annex.

¹ At the time of collecting the data, March 2020, ITU-RR 2016 was the latest version available.

Annex

Activity 1: workshop on the preparation of national tables of frequency allocation (NTFA)

A Four-day online capacity building workshop will take place on May 24-27, 2021.

The workshop will focus on the fundamentals of the ITU Radio Regulations and the practical steps for developing the National Table of Frequency Allocation.

The workshop will also include practical step by step guidance on the process of preparing/ updating NTFA and will pave the way for the participation in the subsequent activities by countries requested the direct technical assistance.

An External BDT expert will be recruited to develop and deliver the training programme. The ITU BR will also participate in this activity by providing a high-level overview session(s) on the ITU Radio Regulations and the ITU RR5 tool (a software for the ITU Radio Regulation analysis)

- ITU Radio Regulations (ITU RR): Legal status, key definitions and structure.
- Overview of the different Radiocommunication services
- Developing a NTFA that conforms with the ITU RR.
- The use of ITU RR5 tool to extract national allocation as per the ITU RR
- National planning and coordination and engaging different stakeholders and users in the preparation process.
- Overview of the different radiocommunication applications and systems.
- Structure of the NTFA: example and best practices
- Regional perspective on frequency allocation.
- Practical steps to develop NTFA and preparation for the online discussion forum (Activity 2).

Activity 2: Online discussion forum

PRIDA project management team will facilitate an online discussion forum where countries requesting direct technical assistance should nominate at least two experts, including **one female** (mandatory requirement), to participate in this activity.

This will last for 4 weeks and two BDT external experts will be recruited to develop the examples, templates and guidance to conduct the tasks of each week. At the end of this exercise, participants are expected to develop a draft of their NTFA.

Participants will be encouraged to share their experience or questions in the online discussion forum.

The 2 recruited experts will:

- prepare a plan for the tasks that will take place during the 4 weeks (e.g. extracting national allocations from ITU RR, deciding on the national allocation for certain bands, providing details about spectrum usage);
- prepare guidance and training material, including examples, on how to implement the tasks for each week;

- deliver a training session at the beginning of each week and Q&A session mid of the week;
- Answer questions posted in the online discussion forum.

Activity 3: wrap-up workshop

This 2-day activity (3 hours each day with Interpretation) will be organised to provide summary of previous activities and lessons learned by one of the recruited experts above.

The participants will have the opportunity to share knowledge and experience gained throughout the process and will present a summary of their respective NTFA drafts.