



Radiocommunication Bureau (BR)

Circular Letter
CR/367

23 July 2014

**To Administrations of Member States of the ITU and
Radiocommunication Sector Members**

**Subject: Implementation of Decision 571 (modified 2014), to provide free online access to
the Rules of Procedure to the general public on a permanent basis**

ITU Council in its 2014 session, at the seventh Plenary Meeting, revised and adopted Decision 571 (modified 2014), deciding *inter alia* to provide free online access to the general public on a permanent basis to the Rules of Procedure, RoP (for the application by the Radiocommunication Bureau of the provisions of the Radio Regulations).

In compliance with this decision, I am glad to inform that RoP are now available on the above conditions, for all UN languages, on the pertinent web site: <https://www.itu.int/pub/R-REG-ROP/en>.

The Bureau remains at the disposal of the membership for any further clarification you may need in this respect.

François Rancy
Director

Annex : Document C14/97-E, Decision 571 (modified 2014)

Distribution :

- Administrations of Member States of the ITU
- Radiocommunication Sector Members
- Chairmen and Vice-Chairmen of Radiocommunication Study Groups and Special Committee on Regulatory/Procedural Matters
- Chairman and Vice-Chairmen of the Radiocommunication Advisory Group
- Chairman and Vice-Chairmen of the Conference Preparatory Meeting
- Members of the Radio Regulations Board
- Secretary-General of the ITU, Director of the Telecommunication Standardization Bureau, Director of the Telecommunication Development Bureau

DECISION 571 (MODIFIED 2014)
(adopted at the seventh Plenary Meeting)

**Free online access to the Administrative Regulations, Council Resolutions
and Decisions and other ITU publications**

The Council,

noting

a) Decision 12 (Guadalajara, 2010) of the Plenipotentiary Conference, on free online access to ITU publications, that approved free online access to ITU-T Recommendations, ITU-R Recommendations, ITU-R Reports, the basic texts of the Union and the final acts of Plenipotentiary Conferences;

b) that Decision 12 instructed Council to undertake a holistic study on the costs/benefits of providing other texts of the Union, including the Administrative Regulations of the Union, free online,

noting further

a) that Article 4 of the ITU Constitution that defines the Administrative Regulations (i.e. the International Telecommunication Regulations and the Radio Regulations) as instruments of the Union that complement the ITU Constitution and Convention;

b) that Article 6 of the ITU Constitution that determines that Member States are bound to abide by the provisions of the Administrative Regulations;

c) that according to Article 10 of the ITU Constitution the Council in the interval between Plenipotentiary Conferences shall act, as governing body of the Union, on behalf of the Plenipotentiary Conference within the limits of the powers delegated to it by the latter and that Council Resolutions and Decisions serve as instruments to ensure the efficient coordination of the work of the Union and exercise effective financial control over the General Secretariat and the three Sectors;

d) Resolution 9 (Rev. Dubai, 2014) of the World Telecommunication Development Conference, on the participation of countries, particularly developing countries, in spectrum management, that recognizes the importance of facilitating access to radiocommunication-related documentation in order to facilitate the task of radio-frequency spectrum managers;

e) Resolution 34 (Rev. Dubai, 2014) of the World Telecommunication Development Conference, on the role of telecommunications/information and communication technology in disaster preparedness, early warning, rescue, mitigation, relief and response, which notes the importance for humankind of ITU publications relating to this area of activity,

considering

- a) that providing free online access to the instruments of the Union helps to fulfil the core purposes of the Union, as defined in Article 1 of the ITU Constitution;
- b) that, regarding the instruments of ITU that are intended to be incorporated in national law, Member States have *de facto* freedom to reproduce, translate and publish such texts on official government department websites as well as in official journals or equivalent publications, in accordance with their respective national law;
- c) that providing free online access to the Council Resolutions and Decisions helps ITU Member States and Sector Members to obtain information concerning plans, budget and activities of the General Secretariat and the three Sectors between Plenipotentiary Conferences;
- d) that increased involvement in ITU activities is a fundamental step towards enhanced capacity-building and Information and Communication Technologies (ICTs) development potential in developing countries, which will lead to a reduction of the digital divide;
- e) that in order to facilitate, increase and improve the participation of Member States and Sector Members from developing countries in ITU activities, these members need to be capable of interpreting and implementing ITU technical publications, the basic texts of the Union and the instruments of the Union;
- f) that ITU publications concerning the use of telecommunications/ICTs in emergency situations are used in the preparation of national disaster response and relief plans, including consideration of the necessary enabling national regulatory and policy environments to support the development and effective use of telecommunications/ICTs for disaster mitigation, relief and response, should be accessible to the general public;
- g) that an efficient way to ensure that developing countries have access to ITU publications is to provide them free of charge online,

considering further

that providing free online access to ITU publications may reduce the demand for paper copies of these documents, in alignment with the current ITU trend of soft format and of organizing paperless meetings, and with the overall goal of the United Nations to reduce paper usage and greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions,

taking into account

- a) that, free online access to the Radio Regulations to the general public as indicated in Documents C13/21, C13/81 and C14/21 had no negative financial impact in 2012 and 2013;
- b) that, according to Document C13/81, during the open free online access trial period, the income from sales of the Radio Regulations in paper and DVD format in 2012 increased by more than 60% comparing with sales in all formats (including online purchases) during the same time interval in 2008 – the year when the previous edition of the Radio Regulations was published,

decides

- 1 to provide free online access to the International Telecommunication Regulations to the general public on a permanent basis;
- 2 to provide free online access to the Radio Regulations to the general public on a permanent basis;
- 3 to provide free online access to the Rules of Procedure to the general public on a permanent basis;
- 4 to provide free online access to Council Resolutions and Decisions to the general public on a permanent basis;
- 5 to provide free online access to the ITU-R Handbooks on radio-frequency spectrum management¹ to the general public on a permanent basis;
- 6 to provide free online access to ITU publications concerning the use of telecommunications/ICTs for ensuring disaster preparedness, early warning, rescue, mitigation, relief and response to the general public on a permanent basis;
- 7 that paper copies of the International Telecommunication Regulations, Radio Regulations and Rules of Procedure will continue to be charged for on the basis of a two-tier pricing policy, whereby Member States, Sector Members and Associates and Academia pay a price based on cost recovery, whereas all others, i.e. non-members, pay a "market price"²;
- 8 that paper copies of the ITU-R Handbooks on radio-frequency spectrum management and ITU publications concerning the use of telecommunications/ICTs for ensuring disaster preparedness, early warning, rescue, mitigation, relief and response will continue to be charged for on the basis of a two-tier pricing policy, whereby Member States, Sector Members and Associates and Academia pay a price based on cost recovery, whereas all others, i.e. non-members, pay a "market price"²,

instructs the Directors of the Bureaux

to draw up lists of the important publications proposed to be made available for free online access, with assistance of the Sector Advisory Groups,

instructs the Secretary-General

to report to the 2014 Plenipotentiary Conference and Council-15 on the impact on revenues of the implementation of decides 2, 3, 4, 5 and 6 and proposals for free online access to publications submitted in accordance with *instructs the Directors of the Bureaux* above, on means for balancing the financial impacts, with the assistance of the Bureaux Directors and the Sector Advisory Groups if any are identified.

¹ These include the ITU-R Handbooks on National Spectrum Management, Computer Aided Techniques for Spectrum Management, and Spectrum Monitoring.

² The term "market price" is defined in Resolution 66 (Rev. Guadalajara, 2010) as the price determined by the Sales and Marketing Division, which is established to maximize revenues without being so high as to discourage sales.