



Radiocommunication Bureau (BR)

Circular Letter
CR/389

29 January 2016

To Administrations of Member States of the ITU

Subject: WRC-15 decisions included in the minutes of plenary meetings

The World Radiocommunication Conference, Geneva, 2015 (WRC-15), in adopting a partial revision of the Radio Regulations, took a number of decisions which do not appear in the Conference's Final Acts, but are reflected in the minutes of WRC-15 plenary meetings. The purpose of this Circular Letter, as requested by the Conference, is to gather and bring these decisions to the attention of administrations.

The Annex to this Circular Letter contains a compilation of the texts of these decisions, along with the references to the corresponding paragraphs in the documents containing the minutes of WRC-15 plenary meetings and to the documents for which agreement/endorsement of the Plenary was sought.

The Radiocommunication Bureau remains at the disposal of your administration for any clarification it may require with respect to the subjects covered in this Circular Letter.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'François Rancy'.

François Rancy
Director

Annex: 1

Distribution:

- Administrations of Member States of ITU
- Members of the Radio Regulations Board

Annex

Source document (Minutes of the Plenary)	Background of the Plenary decision	Plenary decision and associated text
Document CMR15/272 – Minutes of the fourth plenary meeting	Par. 1.10 to 1.12 Approval of Document 230	<p>WRC-15 instructs the Radiocommunication Bureau to develop and implement the tools and means described in the “<i>instructs the Radiocommunication Bureau</i>” of these two Resolutions preferably by 1 January 2017 and no later than 30 June 2017, taking into account the possible financial implications.</p> <p>WRC-15 took note of section 3.2.7.7 of Addendum 2(Rev.1) and section 8.6 of Addendum 3 to Document 4 regarding the decision of the Radio Regulations Board to re-instate the frequency assignments of the CSDRN-M network. WRC-15 furthermore took note of section 8.11 of Addendum 3 to Document 4 regarding the exceptional extension of the deadline for bringing into use the frequency assignments of the LAOSAT-128.5E satellite network until 31 December 2015. WRC-15 endorsed the decisions taken by the Board in both of these cases. WRC-15 furthermore noted that these decisions by the Board were taken on a case-by-case basis, based upon the specific circumstances associated with these two particular cases.</p>
	Par. 1.13 to 1.19 Approval of Document 225	ITU Secretariat takes necessary action to facilitate the browsing of the Radio Regulations by introducing headers on each page of Volume I showing the title of the relevant Chapter.
Document CMR15/430 – Minutes of the sixth plenary meeting	Par. 2.9 to 2.13 Approval of Document 308	<p>A) Application of provision No. 9.19 of the Radio Regulations to terrestrial services</p> <p>The conference agreed:</p> <p>1 to confirm the current Bureau’s practice for application of provision No. 9.19 of the Radio Regulations related to coordination of transmitting terrestrial stations with respect to typical earth station included in the service area of a space station in the broadcasting-satellite service in the bands shared with equal rights between these services as follows:</p> <p>“Since the pfd threshold values are only available for the band 11.7-12.7 GHz, and given the fact that different propagation conditions and criteria may apply to the other bands, in examination of frequency notices for terrestrial stations under No. 9.19 the Bureau currently establishes coordination requirements using only frequency overlap as</p>

		<p>the coordination threshold for the following bands: 620-790 MHz, 1 452-1 492 MHz, 2 310-2 360 MHz, 2 520-2 670 MHz, 17.7-17.8 GHz, 40.5-42.5 GHz and 74-76 GHz.”</p> <p>2 to invite the relevant ITU-R Study Groups to identify the applicable pfd values and calculation methods for establishing coordination requirements under No. 9.19 in the relevant frequency bands, including 620-790 MHz, 1 452-1 492 MHz, 2 310-2 360 MHz, 2 520-2 670 MHz, 17.7-17.8 GHz, 40.5-42.5 GHz and 74-76 GHz.</p> <p>B) New data items for HAPS gateway links</p> <p>Administrations wishing to implement HAPS gateway links in the bands 6 440-6 520 MHz and 6 560-6 640 MHz would continue to use the data elements listed in the above-mentioned Circular Letter on a provisional basis till a competent World Radiocommunication Conference includes the required data items in Appendix 4 to the Radio Regulations.</p>
	<p>Par. 8.1 to 8.6 Harmful interference caused by Italy to the broadcasting services of its neighbouring countries</p>	<p>WRC-15 encourages the Director of BR and RRB to continue their efforts in collaboration with the Administration of Italy and all affected administrations to find a definitive solution as soon as possible.</p>
<p>Document CMR15/504 – Minutes of the seventh plenary meeting</p>	<p>Par. 3.14 to 3.18 Approval of Document 335(Rev.1)</p>	<p>WRC-15 considered the issue of modification to a recorded assignment in the List under RR Appendices 30 and 30A. Article 4 of those Appendices has no specific provisions to modify the characteristics of an assignment after it has successfully entered into the Regions 1 and 3 List of additional uses except for § 4.1.23 where an assignment may be deleted from the List. This being the case even if the modification would reduce the interference caused by the assignment. If the assignment in the List is no longer suitable, the notifying administration has only the option to submit a new proposal under § 4.1.3 of Article 4 in order to replace the assignment in the List. Thus, it is possible to modify the characteristics of an Article 4 submission at the coordination stage, before entering into the List under § 4.1.11, but not afterwards. This issue was raised in the Director’s Report to WRC-15, where the Conference was invited to consider the issue with a view of modifying the provisions of Article 4 of RR Appendices 30 and 30A to permit such modifications in cases where the interference into other networks is reduced. This issue was also the subject of a proposal from a Member State. It was felt that further study of this issue is required. The ITU-R is therefore invited to study this issue under the standing agenda item 7 with the aim of finding an appropriate regulatory and technical solution to this issue.”</p>

		<p>WRC-15 received a proposal addressing §§ 4.1.18-4.1.20 of Appendix 30 to the Radio Regulations which describes the requirements and conditions for recording in the Regions 1 and 3 List of an assignment with outstanding coordination requirements. It was noted that § 4.1.18 prescribes that in the case of recording in the List with outstanding coordination requirements, this recording shall be provisional, but that the entry shall be changed from provisional to definitive recording in the List if the Bureau is informed that the new assignment in the Regions 1 and 3 List has been in use, together with the assignment which was already in the List and which was the basis for the disagreement, for at least four months without any complaint of harmful interference being made. In entering an assignment provisionally into the List, the reference situation of assignments which were the basis for the disagreement is not updated. The Radio Regulations do not provide exact instructions as to if and when the reference situation of these assignments is to be updated and the Bureau has been obliged to adopt a practice for how to do this. The current practice is that the reference situation of assignments which were the basis for the disagreement is updated when changing the recording from provisional to definitive, i.e. after four months without complaints about harmful interference, and it was felt that further study of this issue is required if this current practice is to be changed. ITU-R is therefore invited to study this issue under the standing agenda item 7 with the aim of finding an appropriate regulatory and technical solution to this issue.</p>
	<p>Par. 3.19 to 3.22 Approval of Document 354</p>	<p>In considering the issue of satellite launch failure, WRC-15 confirms the decision taken by WRC-12 (at its thirteenth meeting) that the Board may address requests for a time-limit extension based on either a co-passenger issue or <i>force majeure</i> taking into account internationally applicable rules and practices in this regard so long as any extension is "limited and qualified.</p> <p>WRC-15 instructed the Bureau to publish, after the end of WRC-15 and as soon as possible, a Circular Letter containing all decisions made by WRC-15 included in its plenary minutes and to make it available on the ITU website.</p> <p>WRC-15 discussed section 3.2.2.4.4 of Document 4(Add.2)(Rev.1), Report of the Director of the Radiocommunication Bureau (BR), with respect to the bringing into use of frequency assignments for non-GSO FSS/MSS systems. WRC-15 was not able to conclude on the issue raised by the BR but recognized a lack of specific provisions in the Radio Regulations.</p> <p>WRC-15 invites ITU-R to examine, under the standing WRC agenda item 7, the possible development of regulatory provisions requiring additional milestones beyond those under RR Nos. 11.25 and 11.44 on the systems referred to in the paragraph above. This study may also consider the implications of the application of such milestones to non-GSO FSS/MSS systems brought into use after WRC-15.</p>

<p>Document CMR15/505 – Minutes of the eighth plenary meeting</p>	<p>Par. 3.24 to 3.38</p> <p>Approval of Document 398</p>	<p>In discussing the issue of possible modifications to the Regions 1 and 3 Appendices 30 and 30A Plans WRC-15 recognized that there can be cases where the assistance of the Bureau may be required for countries experiencing a case of <i>force majeure</i>. For the administrations of those countries, it may not be possible to either receive incoming correspondence from the Bureau, or to reply to such correspondence within the time limits established in § 4.1.10a-4.1.10d of Article 4 of RR Appendices 30 and 30A, and lack of such correspondence could negatively impact the reference situation of the Plan assignments of those administrations. In such cases, those administrations could benefit from specific actions taken by the Bureau to address this situation and WRC-15 instructs the Director of the Radiocommunication Bureau to explore the issues and to request the Radio Regulations Board to address those specific situations.</p>
		<p>WRC-15 received a contribution dealing with Section 3.2.2.4.3 of the Director’s Report (Document 4(Add.2)(Rev.1)) on coordination among non-GSO FSS systems. WRC-15 recognizes that notifying administrations may mutually agree on the organization of multilateral coordination meetings for non-GSO FSS systems and may wish to seek the assistance of the Bureau under existing procedures.</p> <p>The coordination among non-GSO FSS systems in bands subject to Section II of RR Article 9 can be further studied in ITU-R, and any modifications to the procedures, if required, can be submitted under WRC-19 agenda item 7.</p>
		<p>In considering the issue of notification of typical earth stations in the fixed-satellite service in the Director’s Report (Document 4(Add.2)(Rev.1) § 3.2.3.8), WRC-15 concluded that further ITU-R studies are needed before any regulatory decision can be made. For the purposes of these studies, WRC-15 agreed to instruct the Bureau to publish a Circular letter containing a common format according to which administrations may wish to submit to the Bureau, on a voluntary basis, characteristics and number of typical earth stations deployed in their countries, to the extent available, for information purposes only.</p>
	<p>Par. 1.39 to 1.42</p> <p>Approval of Document 416</p>	<p>It was recognized during discussion of the Director’s Report and its various addenda that some of the issues that were raised could benefit from study within ITU-R Study Groups. As such, the Radiocommunication Bureau is encouraged to refer these issues as soon as they are identified, and as appropriate, to the ITU-R for such study. It would also be useful if a draft of the Director’s Report, or at least a draft of Part 2 of that Report, could be made available in time for CPM19-2. Finally, it is requested for the Director to consider structuring the report along the lines of the structure of WRC-19.</p>

The annex provides details of the results of the deliberations of the Director’s Report by Committee 5.

ANNEX

PART 2

**Experience in the application of the Radio Regulatory Procedures
and other related matters**

2 Preparation of the Radio Regulations (2012 edition)

2.1 General comments

2.2.2 Inconsistencies, provisions that are lacking clarity

TABLE 2

Inconsistencies in the RR, provisions that are lacking clarity

#	Language	Page – provision	Nature of inconsistency	Possible corrective action
7		Volume 1	Article 11	Article 11
8	All	210	11.48	Inconsistency between 11.48 & para. 8 of Annex 1 to Res .552, 30 days after 7 years should be added to 11.48

		<p>WRC-15 noted the inconsistency between RR No. 11.48 and § 8 of Annex 1 to Resolution 552 (WRC-12) and confirmed its understanding that frequency assignments of satellite networks operating in the 21.4-22 GHz band shall be cancelled by the Bureau 30 days after the end of the seven-year period following the date of receipt by the Bureau of the relevant complete information under RR No. 9.1 or 9.2, as appropriate, and after the end of the three-year period following the date of suspension under RR No. 11.49.</p> <p>3.2 Comments relating to coordination, notification and recording of frequency assignments, aeronautical services, appendices and resolutions</p> <p>3.2.2 Article 9 of the Radio Regulations</p> <p>3.2.2.4.1 Submission of requests for coordination related to non-GSO satellite systems</p> <p>WRC-15 endorsed the suggestion of the Director and recommended the RRB to develop an appropriate Rule of Procedure.</p> <p>3.2.2.4.2 Application of Article 22 of the Radio Regulations for the protection of GSO FSS and GSO BSS networks from non-GSO FSS systems</p> <p>In cases where the software cannot adequately model certain non-geostationary satellite FSS systems, Resolution 85 (WRC-03) will continue to be applied until an update to Recommendation ITU-R S.1503 improving the modelling of those non-GSO systems has been agreed within ITU-R and has been implemented in the epfd validation software. This would not preclude the Bureau to undertake verification of the non-GSO FSS systems that can be modelled with the existing version of the software.</p> <p>Should there be an update to Recommendation ITU-R S.1503 then there would be a consequential requirement for an update to the verification software which would have financial implications and require additional funding. The Bureau would then be in a position to complete the verification of compliance of those FSS systems that could not have been modelled with the current software.</p>
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		<p>3.2.3 Article 11 of the Radio Regulations</p> <p>3.2.3.2 Objection to a coordination agreement after publication of Part I-S</p> <p>WRC-15 endorsed the approach presented in this section.</p> <p>3.2.3.9 Excessive notified characteristics of recorded frequency assignments of GSO satellite networks operating in the FSS, BSS, MSS and associated space operation functions</p> <p>WRC-15 expressed general support for the ideas presented in this section and suggested to BR that it should look to the ITU-R Study Groups to help define criteria to be used in their analysis.</p> <p>3.2.4 Other articles of the Radio Regulations</p> <p>3.2.4.2 Processing of requests under RR No. 23.13B of the Radio Regulations to a network submitted under RR Appendix 30</p> <p>WRC-15 endorsed the proposed method.</p> <p>3.2.4.3 Frequency assignments used in space services with a direct or indirect reference to the provisions of Article 48 of the Constitution</p> <p>In discussing the issues raised in this section, in conjunction with the questions raised in the RRB Report on Resolution 80 regarding these same issues (see Section 4.4 of Document 14), WRC-15 noted that Article 48 refers to “military radio installations” and not to stations used for governmental purposes in general and decided that BR should not infer that an administration refers to Article 48 of the Constitution in its answer to an inquiry under RR No. 13.6, unless this administration has explicitly invoked Article 48. WRC-15 also decided that there should be no restriction in terms of class of station and nature of service for a station eligible to operate under Article 48.</p> <p>3.2.5 Comments relating to Appendices 4 and 8 of the Radio Regulations</p> <p>3.2.5.2.2 Treatment of frequency assignments with a bandwidth less than the stated averaging bandwidth</p> <p>WRC-15 thanked the Director for this section and suggested that this detailed issue be referred to the appropriate ITU Study Group for further consideration.</p>
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		<p>This section of the report raised the issue of whether partial evidence provided by an administration to support the use of frequency assignments across a frequency band may be considered as sufficient, in a reply to a RR No. 13.6 query, to demonstrate the use, or continuation of use, of frequency assignments in accordance with the notified characteristics recorded in the MIFR. In considering this issue, WRC-15 was of the view that administrations need to respond as completely as practicable to queries under RR No. 13.6. If the Bureau receives what it considers to be a partial reply to a query, it is expected that the Bureau would further clarify the scope of its query for the administration or request additional or alternative information. In addition, it was recognized that WRC-15 agreed some revisions to RR No. 13.6 that are intended to ensure greater transparency in the application of this provision. These revisions should have the consequence of helping to address such issues.</p>
	<p>Par. 1.45 to 1.49 Approval of Document 427</p>	<p>The Administration of Colombia requested in Document 110 that WRC-15 consider an extension of the regulatory period for bringing into use the frequency assignments of the SATCOL 1B satellite network, taking into account Article 44 of the ITU Constitution and Recommendation 6 of the Plenipotentiary Conference 2014 (PP14). The Administration of Colombia sought the endorsement of WRC-15 to instruct the Radiocommunication Bureau to extend the regulatory period for bringing into use the assignments of SATCOL 1B until 28 November 2018. Discussions took place amongst the concerned administrations to reach agreement on the protection of their satellite networks. On the basis of the agreements reached between the concerned administrations WRC-15 instructed the Radiocommunication Bureau to extend the regulatory period for bringing into use the assignments of SATCOL 1B until 28 November 2018.</p>
<p>Document CMR15/508 – Minutes of the eleventh plenary meeting</p>	<p>Par. 1.1 to 1.5 Approval of Document 456</p>	<p>In adopting No. 5.A112, WRC-15 recognized Resolution 174 (Rev. Busan, 2014) “ITU’s role with regard to international public policy issues relating to the risk of illicit use of information and communication technologies” and UN General Assembly Resolution A/RES/41/65 on “Principles relating to remote sensing of the Earth from space”, in particular its Principle IV, that are relevant for this application.</p>
<p>Document CMR15/509 – Minutes of the twelfth plenary meeting</p>	<p>Par. 3.1 to 3.10 Approval of Document 453</p>	<p>Before taking the decision to modify No. 11.49 of the Radio Regulations under issue A for agenda item 7, WRC-15 recognized the need to promote transparency without compromising the fair treatment of administrations. WRC-15 gave careful and special consideration to the concerns raised by some administrations regarding the possible uncertainty that could result from the adoption of a provision that may reduce the bringing back into use period based on the untimely submission of information to the Bureau for the suspension of recorded frequency assignments. WRC-15 therefore decided to invite the Radio Regulations Board, in its application of No. 11.49 as revised by WRC - 15, to consider any legitimate mitigating circumstances that could result in a notifying administration's inability to meet the six-month deadline. If the Bureau has reliable information that the use of a frequency assignment has been</p>

		suspended, but it still is within the six-month period, the Bureau is encouraged , as a courtesy, to remind the notifying administration of its obligation to inform the Bureau of the suspension under No. 11.49.
Document CMR15/510 – Minutes of the thirteenth plenary meeting	Par. 7.13 to 7.32 Approval of Document 468	7.32 It was agreed , in the light of all the comments that had been made, to refer to RRB for detailed study the question of the receivability of coordination requests for the new FSS allocation in the band 13.4-13.65 GHz before the date on which the allocation entered into force.
Document CMR15/511 – Minutes of the fourteenth plenary meeting	Par. 1.16 to 1.31, 2.1 to 2.4 and 22.31 to 22.33 Approval of Document 483	<p>In considering Document 483 regarding agenda Item 1.5, concerns were expressed regarding the complexity of the issue and the complexity of the text of the resolution describing both the case and the course of action envisaged for its implementation, and regarding the numerous operative parts of the document, the lack of clarity of certain parts of the resolution, and the difficulty of its application.</p> <p>In view of the above, the conference felt it appropriate to indicate that it is very difficult to authorize the use of the frequency band in question for the operation of UAS/CNPC, in particular the earth station in motion on board aircraft, before the study and course of actions called for in the resolution to address various aspects of operation are completed and agreed by WRC-23, since lack of prudence for such operation would adversely affect the safe operation of flight and be detrimental to the satellite services and terrestrial services of other administrations.”</p>
	Par. 16.19 to 16.26 Approval of Document 499	<p>16.20 The delegate of the Islamic Republic of Iran, reporting on the outcome of the informal consultations conducted with regard to the list of countries in Resolutions PLEN/1 (WRC-15) and PLEN/2 (WRC-15), said that a solution to the concerns expressed had been agreed, namely that, on receipt of the relevant notification from the concerned administration, the Radiocommunication Bureau would follow its usual practice of ascertaining, in accordance with No. 11.31, whether the conditions provided for in the applicable footnotes were met. In the event that the Bureau’s findings were unfavourable, any assignment received under No. 11.31 would be returned to the notifying administration. If, however, the notifying administration was able to satisfy its neighbours that its operations would not cause interference in their territory, an exception to the limits specified in those footnotes could be explicitly agreed. On that understanding, the proposal was that the list of countries appearing in the two resolutions could be retained in their current form. As to the positioning of earth stations in the territory of third countries, it was not permitted under Resolution 1 (Rev.WRC-97).</p> <p>16.21 The Director of BR confirmed that the Radiocommunication Bureau would indeed follow the described procedure in such cases.</p>

	16.26 It was so agreed .
Par. 22.36 to 22.39 Approval of Document 501	<p>22.37 The Director of BR provided the following explanation: “Without the words “in the above countries”, ADD 5.R1b concerns a number of administrations, and how these administrations may implement IMT in the 1 452-1 492 MHz band by applying No. 9.21 of the Radio Regulations in respect of the mobile service used by aeronautical telemetry in accordance with No. 5.342. Thus, ADD 5.R1b deals with the relationship between the countries listed in it and the countries listed in No. 5.342.”</p> <p>22.38 With that explanation, the Chairman invited the plenary to approve ADD 5.R1b on the understanding that the names of the countries listed in Documents 25(Add.1) (Add.4), 28 and 130 would be included in it and that the words “in the above countries” would be deleted from it.</p> <p>22.39 ADD 5.R1b, as amended, was approved on second reading.</p>
Par. 23.1 to 23.3 Approval of Document 502	<p>23.1 The Chairman of the Editorial Committee introduced Document 502, which dealt with correcting typographical and other apparent errors in the various language versions of the 2012 edition of the Radio Regulations. The agreement of the conference was sought to authorize the Director of BR to proceed with the inclusion of the corrections in the subsequent edition of the Regulations.</p> <p>23.2 The Chairman took it that the conference agreed to that course of action.</p> <p>23.3 It was so agreed.</p>