

RECOMMENDATION ITU-D 13.1

Revision to Recommendation ITU-D 13

**Effective utilization of the amateur services¹
in disaster mitigation and relief operations²**

(January, 2006)

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 experiencing natural calamities may not take advantage of the 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 international humanitarian assistance after the occurrence of a natural disaster often includes the provision of amateur operators and of equipment from an assisting country;
- e) that barriers to operating permission and to the movement of operators and equipment have in many cases hindered the full use of telecommunication capabilities made available from outside an affected country;
- f) that the Tampere Convention on the Provision of Telecommunication 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 Resolution 19 of the World Telecommunication Development Conference (Valletta, 1998), Telecommunication Resources for Disaster Mitigation and Relief Operations, resolves to invite ITU-D to ensure that proper consideration be given to emergency telecommunications as an element of telecommunication development, including, in close coordination and collaboration with ITU-R, by facilitating and encouraging the use of decentralized means of communications that are appropriate and generally available, including those provided by the amateur radio services;

¹ The amateur service is defined in the Radio Regulations at 1.56 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.

² After approval, this Recommendation should be sent to the ITU-R Study Group 8 for information.

- i) that Resolution 644 of the World Radiocommunication Conference (Geneva, 1997), Telecommunication Resources for Disaster Mitigation and Relief Operations, resolves to invite 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 decentralized means of communications that are appropriate and generally available, including amateur radio facilities;
- j) that Recommendation ITU-R M.1042-2 (2003), 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;
- k) that Resolution 36 of the ITU Plenipotentiary Conference (rev. Marrakech, 2002), “Telecommunication in the service of humanitarian assistance”, urges Member States to take all practical steps for the application of the Tampere Convention;
- l) that No. 25.3 of the Radio Regulations (WRC-03) provides that “Amateur stations may be used for transmitting international communications on behalf of third parties only in case of emergencies or disaster relief. An administration may determine the applicability of this provision to amateur stations under its jurisdiction”;
- m) that No. 25.9A of the Radio Regulations (WRC-03) provides that “Administrations are encouraged to take the necessary steps to allow amateur stations to prepare for and meet communication needs in support of disaster relief,”

recommends

- 1** that administrations should include the amateur services in their national disaster plans and telecommunication assistance information inventories;
- 2** that administrations should reduce and remove barriers to the effective utilization of the amateur services for disaster communications and related training activities;
- 3** that amateur and disaster relief organizations and providers of emergency response develop memoranda of understanding (MoU) between themselves and with administrations as well as to cooperate, together with other concerned parties, in developing and making available model agreements and best practices in disaster telecommunications³.

³ Illustrative examples of such agreements are available on request from ITU/BDT.