



Radiocommunication Bureau (BR)

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UGA, YEM, ZMB, ZWE,
African Telecommunication Union

Subject: **2nd Frequency Coordination Meeting on the GE84 Plan Optimization for Africa,
28 June-2 July 2021 - Virtual meeting**

Refs.: a) **BR Circular Letter CR/448, dated 28 August 2019**
b) **Invitation letter 31E(BCD)O-2021-001293, dated 19 March 2021, relating to the 2nd
Series of GE84 Plan Optimization for Africa Workshop, 19-21 April 2021**

Dear Madam, Sir,

I am pleased to invite your Administration to participate in the **2nd Frequency Coordination Meeting relating to the GE84 Plan Optimisation for Africa**. This event, organized by the Radiocommunication Bureau (BR) of ITU in collaboration with the African Telecommunication Union (ATU), will be held from 28 June to 2 July 2021.

Due to the COVID-19 outbreak and the current travel and gathering restrictions, this event will be held virtually, using the same interactive format as the first meeting held from 15 to 19 February 2021.

The main purpose of this GE84 Plan Optimization project for Africa is to achieve a more efficient use of the 87.5-108 MHz (FM) band for analogue sound broadcasting by identifying new frequency channels for FM broadcasting to meet the increasing need for additional frequency channels in African countries.

This optimization project requires the heavy involvement of the participating administrations, to provide the necessary data and actively participate in frequency coordination meetings to successfully identify additional mutually compatible assignments. To that end, BR staff will assist the administrations that could not attend the first meeting with the software and the coordination process to enable them to actively participate in this project.

This second meeting is intended to continue the frequency coordination process initiated at the first meeting between the African administrations. In addition, and in compliance with the decisions of the first meeting (https://www.itu.int/en/ITU-R/terrestrial/broadcast/africa/Documents/1stMeteeng/Criteria-approved_E-Final.pdf), relevant neighbouring countries, that are not directly involved but might be potentially impacted by this planning process, are kindly invited to participate in this activity to coordinate the frequency requirements.

The meeting is not intended to conclude any formal agreements, but instead to build informal consensus towards the conclusion of formal agreements among the administrations involved. On the basis of these agreements, administrations will be entitled to formally submit the coordinated frequency assignments to the ITU, at the end of this optimization project, to update the GE84 Plan.

The meeting will focus on the process necessary to ensure the compatibility of national frequency plans in support of FM broadcasting in the 87.5 – 108 MHz, taking into account:

- existing GE84 Plan entries;
- pending modifications to the GE84 Plan, published in Part A of Special Sections GE84;
- current and future plans for FM broadcasting;

During this second meeting, administrations will have the opportunity to continue discussions on criteria that have not been agreed upon for the consideration of assignable frequencies, primarily the trigger value of maximum acceptable nuisance field strength (NFS).

As with previous frequency coordination exercises among African countries and among Arab States on the re-arrangement of some GE06 frequency channels, this GE84 coordination process will require a number of iterations. In the period between future meetings, the updated requirements can be submitted fortnightly by e-mail until the 3rd and last meeting planned for December 2021 or January 2022.

Specifically, the coordination process involves:

- a new iteration every other week;
- submission of the updated requirements by participating administrations every other Thursday;
- compatibility calculations run by BR based on the submitted requirements;
- compatibility calculations results made available to administrations the following Monday;
- assistance to participants throughout the process regarding the analysis of their requirements and possible approaches to reduce potential interference.

To provide support to the meeting, the Radiocommunication Bureau has made available to the participants a compatibility analysis software tool (GE84 Optimization in [eTools](#)) dedicated to this process and the relevant presentations and demonstrations made during the [workshops](#) mentioned in reference b) above as well as during the [1st Frequency Coordination Meeting](#) held in February 2021.

Please note that this meeting is primarily intended for experts in FM broadcasting frequency planning. Therefore, the presence of broadcasting planning experts from the regulatory entities is **highly recommended**.

It is also strongly recommended that prior to this meeting, participants review the workshop presentations and documentation, and become familiar with the GE84 software. The relevant material is available on our dedicated web pages at:

<https://www.itu.int/en/ITU-R/terrestrial/broadcast/africa/Pages/Workshop.aspx>.

Languages

The meeting will be held in French and English, with simultaneous interpretation during the 1st day and half of the last one. For the breakout sessions, BR staff attending the meeting will speak both languages.

Format

The meeting will follow an online format, with a daily session from **9:00 a.m. to 4:45 p.m., Geneva time** (including breaks). A draft program is available in Annex of this letter.

An e-mail containing instructions on how to access the platform will be sent before the event.

Laptops/computers should meet the minimal requirements described on the project website.

Registration

Registration to this event is mandatory and will be carried out exclusively on-line via Designated Focal Points (DFPs) for ITU-R event registration. An ITU user account is required from participants to submit a registration request and obtain registration approval from the corresponding focal point.

The list of ITU-R DFPS (TIES protected) as well as detailed information on this new event registration system, etc. can be found at: www.itu.int/en/ITU-R/information/events.

I look forward to the participation of your Administration in this important event. The presence of all administrations concerned is key to reach the most effective results.

BR remains at your disposal for any further assistance or clarification that you may require.

Yours faithfully,

Mario Maniewicz
Director

Annex - Preliminary Program

Annex

2nd Frequency Coordination Meeting on GE84 Plan Optimization for Africa
 28 June - 2 July 2021, virtual meeting
Preliminary Program

Time	28 June Plenary sessions	29 June Breakout sessions	30 June Breakout sessions	1 July Breakout sessions	2 July
09:00-10:20	09:00 – 09:20 Opening –ITU and ATU Presentation on GE84 optimization project	Frequency coordination/ Analysis of iteration0 results	Frequency coordination/ Analysis of iteration13 results	Frequency coordination/ Analysis of iteration14 results	Breakout session Frequency coordination/ Analysis of iteration15 results
10:20-10:40	Coffee Break	Coffee Break	Coffee Break	Coffee Break	Coffee Break
10:40-12:00	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • GE84 Optimization calculations in eTools • ITU-R P.1812/P.1546 prediction calculations in eTools 	Frequency coordination/ Analysis of iteration12 results	Frequency coordination/ Analysis of iteration13 results	Frequency coordination/ Analysis of iteration14 results	Plenary session: Wrap-up and Future work End of meeting
12:00-14:00	Lunch Break	Lunch Break	Lunch Break	Lunch Break	Lunch Break
14:00-15:20	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Compatibility analysis for new frequency requirements (case study based on Iteration 0). • Installation of BR software and training. 	Frequency coordination/ Analysis of iteration12 results	Frequency coordination/ Analysis of iteration13 results	Frequency coordination/ Analysis of iteration14 results	
15:20-15:40	Coffee Break	Coffee Break	Coffee Break	Coffee Break	Coffee Break
15:40-17:00	ITU Tools for preparation of requirements (T01, TB5), validation and addition of coordination information.	Frequency coordination/ Analysis of iteration12 results	Frequency coordination/ Analysis of iteration13 results	Frequency coordination/ Analysis of iteration14 results	
18:00		Deadline for submission of requirements for iteration13	Deadline for submission of requirements for iteration14	Deadline for submission of requirements for iteration15	