



**Telecommunication
Development Bureau (BDT)**

Ref.: BDT/PKM/LSE/DM/134

Geneva, 24 February 2016

To: All ITU Member States

Subject: **Ratification of the Tampere Convention**

Dear Sir/Madam,

At the just concluded Global Forum on Emergency Telecommunications that was held in Kuwait, from 26 to 28 January 2016, the participants called for renewed efforts to the global ratification of the Tampere Convention.

The Tampere Convention provides a legal framework for the deployment and use of telecommunications in international humanitarian assistance. It came into effect on 8 January 2008 and has been ratified by 48 countries.

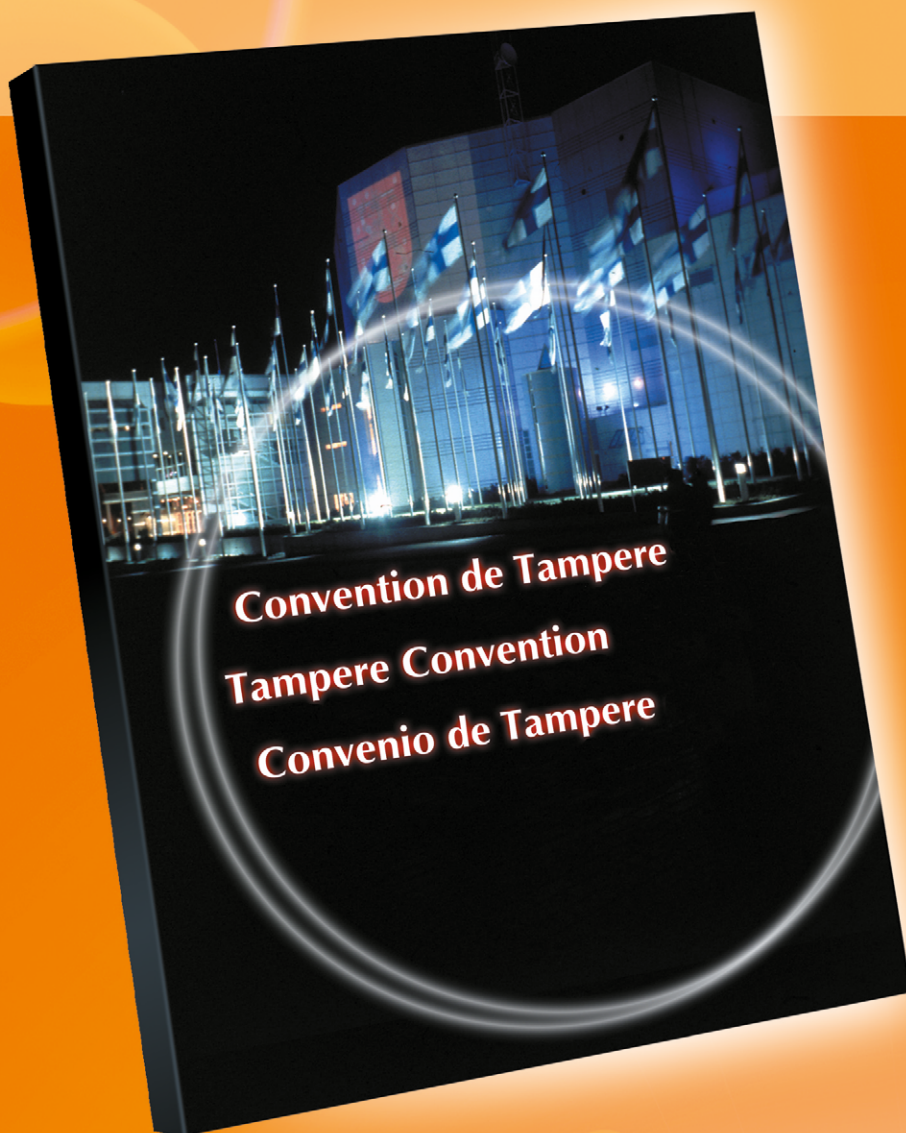
I hereby attach a brochure on how to ratify the convention and encourage your Government to consider ratifying it in accordance with ITU Plenipotentiary Resolution 36 (PP-14). Should you have any questions my team remain at your disposal. Mr Cosmas Zavazava, Chief, Project Support and Knowledge Management Department can be contacted by email at: cosmas.zavazava@itu.int.

Yours faithfully,

[Original signed]

Brahima Sanou
Director

Annex: How to Ratify the Tampere Convention



How to ratify the **TAMPERE** Convention

**on the Provision of Telecommunication Resources
for Disaster Mitigation and Relief Operations**



The Tampere Convention provides the legal framework for the deployment and the use of telecommunications in international humanitarian assistance. This treaty came into effect on 8 January 2005.

The United Nations Secretary-General is the Depository of the Convention. The United Nations Emergency Relief Coordinator is the Operational Coordinator under the Convention, working closely with the International Telecommunication Union.

To ensure the reliable, rapid availability of telecommunication resources for disaster mitigation and relief operations, and facilitate international cooperation to mitigate the impact of disasters, the International Telecommunication Union has adopted:

- ITU Plenipotentiary Conference (PP-10) Resolution 36, “Telecommunication/information and communication technologies in the service of humanitarian assistance”, inviting Member States “to work towards their accession to the Tampere Convention as a matter of priority”, and urging Member States Parties to the Tampere Convention “to take all practical steps for the application of the Tampere Convention and to work closely with the Operational Coordinator as provided for therein.”
- ITU World Telecommunication Development Conference (WTDC-14) Resolution 34, “The role of telecommunications/information technology in early warning and mitigation of disasters and humanitarian assistance”, requesting the Telecommunication Development Bureau “to support administrations in their work towards the implementation of the Tampere Convention.”

Tampere Convention

- **Provides the legal framework for the use of telecommunications in international humanitarian assistance**
- **Reduces regulatory barriers**
- **Protects providers of telecommunication assistance while safeguarding the interests of the host country.**



For information on depository matters (signature, ratification, acceptance, approval or accession), please contact:

United Nations
Treaty Section, Office of Legal Affairs (OLA)
New York, NY 10017, United States.
Tel.: + 212 963 3918/5047
Fax: + 212 963 3693

HOW TO SIGN/RATIFY this Convention

Proper **full powers** are required by all persons seeking to sign a treaty deposited with the Secretary-General of the United Nations or to make a reservation upon signature, except Heads of State or Government, or Ministers of Foreign Affairs.

Full powers should:

- bear the signature of the Head of State or Government, or the Minister of Foreign Affairs
- specify clearly the title of the instrument to be signed
- state the full name of the person authorized to sign the instrument concerned.

As already stated, **full powers** are not required where the Head of State or Government or the Minister of Foreign Affairs signs in person. Furthermore, where general **full powers** have been issued to a person and have been deposited with the Secretariat in advance, specific **full powers** are not required.

It is advised that, whenever possible, **full powers** should be submitted for verification to the Treaty Section of the United Nations in advance of the intended date of signature.

Here is a sample of an instrument of **full powers**:

I _____ *[name and title of the Minister of Foreign Affairs, Head of Government or Head of State]*

HEREBY AUTHORIZE _____ *[name and title]*

to _____ *[sign*/ratify/denounce/effect the following declaration in respect of]*

the TAMPERE CONVENTION on the Provision of Telecommunication Resources for Disaster Mitigation and Relief Operations on behalf of the Government of _____ *[name of State]*

Done at _____ *[place]* on _____ *[date]*

_____ *[signature]*

* Subject to the provisions of the treaty, one of the following alternatives is to be chosen: **[subject to ratification]** or **[without reservation as to ratification]**.

Reservations made upon signature must be authorized by the full powers granted to the signatory.



“An international legal treaty such as the Tampere Convention is essential for the rapid cross-border movement of telecommunication resources in emergencies.

I invite Member States to ratify and implement this important Treaty.”

Mr Houlin Zhao

Secretary-General, ITU



“From the first minute that a disaster strikes, telecommunications provide a life line for the victims that are in distress and a channel of communication for the people involved in disaster mitigation relief. For this reason, we take every measure possible to ensure timely deployment of telecommunication resources where they are needed, and the Tampere Convention is a useful tool to ensure that this happens.”

Mr Brahim Sanou

Director, Telecommunication Development Bureau



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