



## Radiocommunication Bureau (BR)

Administrative Circular  
**CA/252**

1 June 2020

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

Subject: **Summary of conclusions of the twenty-seventh Radiocommunication Advisory Group meeting**

The Radiocommunication Advisory Group (RAG) met for the twenty-seventh time from 25 to 27 May 2020.

The summary of conclusions of the meeting is contained in the Annex to this letter.

Additional information about this meeting may be found on the RAG website at [www.itu.int/ITU-R/go/RAG](http://www.itu.int/ITU-R/go/RAG).

Mario Maniewicz  
Director

Annex: 1

**Distribution:**

- Administrations of Member States of the ITU
- Radiocommunication Sector Members
- ITU Academia
- Chairmen and Vice-Chairmen of Radiocommunication Study Groups
- 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

## ANNEX

### SUMMARY OF CONCLUSIONS OF THE TWENTY-SEVENTH RADIOCOMMUNICATION ADVISORY GROUP MEETING

(Source: Doc. RAG20/TEMP/3 (edited))

<b>Agenda Item</b>	<b>Subject / Document</b>	<b>Conclusions</b>
1	Opening remarks	<p>The meeting was officially opened by the Chairman, Mr. Daniel Obam (Kenya).</p> <p>The ITU Secretary-general delivered his opening remarks and presented his sincere congratulations to the election of the chairman and vice chairmen of the RAG. He highlighted that WRC achieved many important agreements and applauded the Gender Declaration. He thanked the Egyptian Administration for their generosity and hospitality. The SG highlighted the importance of the intersectoral cooperation between the Bureaux and the delegates.</p> <p>The BR Director also welcomed all participants to this first RAG meeting during this study period and congratulated the Members for the successful conclusion of the WRC-19 and the RA-19. The Director highlighted that the BR is committed to continue delivering towards their mandate and that ITU-R meetings will continue to be held virtually during this pandemic period. The Director highlighted the topics that RA-19 and WRC-19 invited the RAG to consider.</p> <p>In his opening remarks, the Chairman of the RAG thanked all the ITU Administrations for showing confidence in him by re-electing for a second term. He promised to work diligently and cooperatively with everyone in carrying out the mandate of RAG. He also thanked the Secretary General and the Directors of the other Bureaux for attending the meeting. He expressed his appreciation to the Director, the Deputy Director and staff of the BR for the effort they had put in to prepare for this unprecedented online meeting. He congratulated the newly elected chairmen and vice chairmen of the Study Groups, CCV and CPM and wished well in their work during the study cycle. He also congratulated and recognized the new RAG vice chairmen and expressed the wish to work with them for the next 3 years.</p>

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		<p>Finally, the chairman expressed his appreciation to previous secretaries to the RAG meeting Mr. Fabio Leite, Mr. Mario Maniewicz and Mr. William Ijeh for their contribution to the work of RAG. He wished the delegates a fruitful meeting.</p>
2	<p>Approval of the agenda <i>RAG20/ADM/1</i></p>	<p>The draft agenda in Doc. RAG20/ADM/1 was adopted without changes.</p>
3	<p>Council issues <i>RAG20/1-Rev1(§2 &amp; §3.2.3)</i></p>	<p>RAG noted the information provided on Cost recovery for satellite network fillings.</p> <p>RAG noted the information on the Financial implications of WRC-19 Decisions and recognized the importance of the BR having sufficient funding to implement the decisions of the WRC-19 over the full study cycle.</p> <p>The RAG also noted that the financial regulations do not allow the BR to utilize its annual budget for projects that extend beyond the end of the year, which would be the types of projects undertaken to implement the WRC-19 decisions. As such, it is important for Council to earmark funds that can be used by the BR for this purpose, which can be taken from existing annual savings.</p> <p>RAG also recognized that the estimates made by the WRC-19 were based on the best available information at the time of the conference. RAG also noted that any savings that may occur from the actual implementation of these decisions would be returned to the ITU budget.</p> <p>USA expressed their reservation regarding the financial implications of WRC-19 that have been submitted to Council.</p>
4	<p>Result of RA-19 and WRC-19 and consequential actions <i>RAG20/1-Rev1(§3), 7, 11, 13, 15, 16, 19, 21</i></p>	<p>RAG noted the information provided in the Director’s report on the results of the Radiocommunication Assembly 2019 (RA-19).</p> <p>RAG considered Doc. RAG20/7 from Iran (Islamic Republic of) and noted the proposals contained therein. The Bureau informed delegates that, as a result of a decision of the Radio Regulations Board (RRB) at its 68<sup>th</sup> meeting, a collection (“<a href="#">Decisions of past WRCs concerning the application of the Radio Regulations</a>”) of the decisions in the Minutes of the Plenary sessions of WRC-95 to WRC-12 that are not contained in the Final Acts of these conferences, is available on the <a href="#">website</a> of the RRB under the “Special Topics” tab. At its 74<sup>th</sup> meeting, the Board decided to publish those decisions in the Minutes of the Plenary sessions of</p>

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		<p>WRC-15 that are not contained in the Final Acts of that conference and that have an impact on the Rules of Procedure or Radio Regulations, as “Notes” in the 2017 Edition of the Rules of Procedure (RoPs). The meeting was also informed that Circular Letter (<a href="#">CR/456</a>) contains a table with the decision(s) of WRC-19 included in the Minutes of its Plenary sessions and such a <a href="#">table</a> was published on the RRB website.</p> <p>Based on the discussion, it was agreed that this information, which is currently on the RRB website, would be made more prominently displayed on the ITU-R website for easier access by the membership.</p> <p>RAG considered Doc. RAG20/11 from Iran (Islamic Republic of) and the proposal on categorizing new and revised Resolutions adopted by previous WRCs and taking consequential actions. The objective of Document 11 was to prepare a consolidated document containing all Resolutions of previous WRCs in force as far as the responsibility and the mandate of the Bureau is concerned taking into account the categorization provided by Document 11 and made it available or posted on the RAG and the Bureau’s website as well as publishing that in a circular letter addressed to Membership.</p> <p>The Bureau informed delegates that the proposal is partially implemented in Doc. 1 of each Study Group. Additional elements presented in the proposal will be consolidated in a separate single document. Other actions will be reported to RAG-21.</p> <p>RAG considered Docs. RAG20/13, 15, 16 and 19 that refer to the instructions provided to the RAG by the RA-19 and the WRC-19 and concluded as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• To establish a RAG Correspondence Group on Gender with the terms of reference presented in Annex 1.</li><li>• To consider, at its meeting in 2021, the establishment of a second Correspondence Group to discuss the a) maximum term of office for Chairmen of ITU-R working parties and b) approval of Recommendations of interest to multiple study groups, c) the need of fixing, if identified, any omissions or contradictions of the existing texts as instructed by RA-19. In preparation for that discussion, RAG requested administrations to consider and provide further enhancements, as required, to the draft terms of reference presented in Annex 2. This issue will be further discussed and decided by RAG 21.</li></ul>

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		<p>RAG noted Doc. RAG20/21 from China and the BR informed the meeting that the Guidelines for the Working Methods have been updated.</p> <p>RAG encouraged Working Party Chairs to identify one or two Vice Chairs for their Working Party.</p> <p>The RAG also noted that the BR can undertake training opportunities prior to the RA-23 and that this topic can be further considered at meetings of the Chairmen and Vice Chairmen of Study Groups. RAG also invited the Director to hold a meeting of Chairmen and Vice Chairmen of Study Groups to consider this and other matters related to the functioning of their groups.</p>
5	<p>WRC-23 preparation <i>RAG20/1-Rev1(\$5)</i></p>	<p>RAG noted the report on the preparations for WRC-23.</p> <p>The RAG noted the comments from the US that requested more information with regards to the WRC-23 preparation and the revision of the Host Country Agreement.</p> <p>RAG noted the clarifications provided by the ITU Legal Affairs Unit (LAU) on Resolutions that govern the Host Country Agreements as well as the clarification provided by LAU highlighting that the Council is the competent body to review and comment on the Host Country Agreements.</p> <p>RAG invited the BR Director to continue providing regular reports on the progress of WRC-23 preparations, including details on the status of the Host Country Agreement.</p>
6	<p>Study Group activities <i>RAG20/1-Rev1(\$4 &amp; ADD1), 12-Rev1, 14, 18</i></p>	<p>RAG noted the report on the ITU-R Study Group activities.</p> <p>RAG considered Doc. RAG20/12rev.1 and 14 from Iran providing guidance for addressing WRC-23 agenda items.</p> <p>On Document 12 (Rev. 1), RAG took note of the contribution with thanks and invited the Director to convey this document, as soon as possible, to the meeting of Chairmen and Vice-Chairmen of Study Groups and Working Parties to discuss the document and its treatment, and to invite the contributing Administration to attend the meeting. Following which, the document would be referred to the relevant Study Groups and Working Parties to take into consideration, as appropriate.</p>

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		<p>On Document 14, RAG noted the contribution and invited the Director to convey the proposal to the various Study Groups and Working Parties.</p> <p>RAG considered Doc. RAG20/18 from Japan regarding the referencing of external standards in an ITU-R Recommendation.</p> <p>RAG noted the proposal and invited the Director to use it to improve the guidelines in preparing recommendations, taking into account the advice provided by the ITU Legal Affairs Unit. RAG also invited the Director to provide a report on this matter to the next RAG meeting.</p> <p>RAG noted the intervention of WP 5D Chairman who stated that, based on consideration of overall work programs and deadlines, WP 5D Meeting #34 in February 2020 decided to extend the duration of each WP 5D meeting until mid- 2023 in order to implement Resolution 245 (WRC-19) under WRC-23 AI 1.2 and to complete other study work. However, taking into account the prevailing circumstances, it was requested to the chairman of WP 5D to maintain the initial timeframe or with an extension of up to two days.</p>
7	<p>Inter-sector activities  <i>ITU-T/TSAG: RAG20/2, 3, 6, 9, 5-Rev1, 8</i>  <i>ITU-D/TDAG: RAG20/4</i></p>	<p>RAG noted the information contained in the document 9 on inter-sectoral activities, which superseded that in documents 2, 3, and 6; and the information contained in documents 5Rev1 and 8 on streamlining Resolutions and the mapping ITU-R WPs of interest to ITU-T study groups.</p> <p>RAG noted the oral report presented by the Chairman of the Inter-Sector Coordination Group (ISCG), in particular the fact that the most updated situation of mapping tables of study and Resolutions of the three sectors and the General Secretariat are given in the intersector coordination group website (<a href="https://www.itu.int/en/general-secretariat/Pages/ISCG/default.aspx">https://www.itu.int/en/general-secretariat/Pages/ISCG/default.aspx</a>).</p> <p>RAG was informed that the next virtual meeting of the ISCG will be held on 1<sup>st</sup> June and appointed its two Vice Chairman Mr. Abdouramane El Hadjar (Cameroon) and Mr. Victor Martinez (Mexico) to represent the Sector at the ISCG during this cycle.</p>

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		<p>RAG noted the liaison statement from the TDAG in Document 8 and expressed appreciation for the continuing working relationship between the two sectors. RAG will continue to work together with the TDAG on issues that are relevant to both groups.</p>
8	<p>Operational Planning <i>RAG20/1-Rev1(\$6), 10, 20</i></p>	<p>RAG noted the draft rolling Operational Plan of the ITU-R for the period 2021-2024.</p> <p>On Document 20 from China, RAG invited the Director to take into account RAG’s support for improving ITU’s remote participation platform in his reporting to Council, bearing in mind the different views expressed by delegates on the benefits and challenges of using virtual versus physical meetings to progress the work of the ITU-R.</p>
9	<p>BR information system <i>RAG20/1-Rev1(\$7), 17, 22, 23</i></p>	<p>RAG noted with thanks the work that has been done in enhancing the BR information system and invites the Director to continue further enhancing these systems to facilitate the work on this sector.</p> <p>On Document 17 from Japan, RAG noted with thanks and invited the Director to take it into account as they enhance the BR information systems. The Director also took the opportunity to thank Japan for their continued support given to BR as part of resolution 908 in enhancing the Bureau’s information systems. RAG invited the Director to take the necessary action and report at the next RAG meeting on how the BR has enhanced the BR information systems, with regards to the proposal from Japan.</p> <p>On Document 22 from Brazil, RAG noted the contribution and invited Director to implement some of the proposals therein, within the available resource and as practicable, and to report to the RAG at its next meeting.</p> <p>On Document RAG20/23 from Brazil, RAG was informed by the Bureau of a very satisfying rate of adoption of the e-Communication tool by administrations and noted that the recent pandemic crisis led to a surge in use of this application. The Bureau also mentioned its strong commitment to continue to develop this tool in order to make it as useful as possible for users, notably by adding further functionalities (e.g. taking into account intergovernmental organizations, and including the possibility for administrations to manage the correspondence with their satellite operating agencies).</p>

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		RAG noted this contribution and invited the Director to encourage Administrations to use electronic communications to the maximum extent possible.
10	Outreach <i>RAG20/1-Rev1(§8)</i>	RAG noted the report and invited the Director to continue efforts of the BR to provide assistance and capacity building within the means that is at his disposal.  Regarding WRS-2020, RAG advised the Director about the importance of making the workshops (space and terrestrial) fully available online and recorded for future consultations by the membership, not only due to COVID situation, but on a permanent basis.
11	Date of next meeting	The 28 <sup>th</sup> meeting of the RAG is planned to take place from 29 March to 1 April 2021.
12	Any other business	

ANNEXES:

ANNEX 1: Terms of reference of the RAG Correspondence Group 1 on the implementation of WRC-19 Gender Declaration and drafting of a possible RA-23 Gender Resolution

ANNEX 2: Draft Terms of Reference of the RAG Correspondence Group 2 on possible revisions of Resolutions ITU-R 1-8 and 15-6



## ANNEX 1

(Source: Doc. RAG20/TEMP/3-Annex 1)

### TERMS OF REFERENCE OF THE RAG CORRESPONDENCE GROUP 1 ON THE IMPLEMENTATION OF WRC-19 GENDER DECLARATION AND DRAFTING OF A POSSIBLE RA-23 GENDER RESOLUTION

In accordance with §§ A1.4.1 to A1.4.4 of Resolution ITU-R 1-8 and with Resolution ITUR 52-1, to consider an appropriate course of action to initiate prior to RA-23 toward implementing the provisions of the WRC-19 Gender Declaration. In particular, the RAG Correspondence Group 1 (RAG CG-1) should consider means of:

- providing guidance and encouragement toward the equitable selection of chairmen, vice chairmen and rapporteurs in the work of the ITU-R Study Groups, the CPM and in the work of the RAG itself;
- supporting and providing input to the ongoing work of the “Network of Women” to enhance and maximize the effectiveness of this initiative;
- providing advice, where possible, on ITU-R matters supporting the goal of achieving gender equality, equity and parity in the work of the sector.

Additionally, the (RAG CG-1) should prepare a possible new ITU-R Resolution *“Promoting Gender Equality, Equity and Parity in the ITU Radiocommunication Sector”* for consideration by the Chairman of the RAG and subsequent submission to the Radiocommunication Assembly 2023, taking into account the provisions of the *WRC-19 Declaration on Promoting Gender Equality, Equity and Parity in the ITU Radiocommunication Sector*, the information provided in Section 3.2.5 of Doc. RAG20/1Rev.1, and any other additional proposals submitted to the (RAG CG-1).

The (RAG CG-1) shall submit its final report to the Chairman of the RAG in time for consideration at the 30<sup>th</sup> meeting of the RAG.

The Chairman of the (RAG CG-1) is Mrs. Lucia Luisa La Franceschina (Italy) (E-mail: [lucialuisa.lafranceschina@railway.it](mailto:lucialuisa.lafranceschina@railway.it)) and Vice Chairman is Mrs. Olfa Jammeli (Tunisia) (E-mail: [olfa.jammeli@anf.tn](mailto:olfa.jammeli@anf.tn)). Other relevant information for the work of this Correspondence Group (e.g. email reflector) will be provided on the RAG webpage.

## ANNEX 2

(Source: Doc. RAG20/TEMP/3 - Annex 2)

### DRAFT TERMS OF REFERENCE OF THE RAG CORRESPONDENCE GROUP 2 ON POSSIBLE REVISIONS OF RESOLUTIONS ITU-R 1-8 AND 15-6

(with revisions proposed by the Russian Federation and USA)

#### Introduction

In accordance with §§ A1.4.1 to A1.4.4 of Resolution ITU-R 1-8, Radiocommunication Assembly 2019 in RA19/84 “invited the RAG to identify possible modifications to Resolution ITU-R 1 with respect to approval procedures when a text is relevant to the topics of multiple SGs” and “to review the maximum term of office for Chairmen of Radiocommunication Working Parties” Based on proposals from the Member States and Sector Members and in consultation with the Study Group Chairmen, the RAG Correspondence Group 2 (RAG CG-2) is invited to provide possible revisions of Resolution ITU-R 1-8 and Resolution ITU-R 15-6 with the following Terms of Reference:

1. **Possible revision of Resolution ITU-R 1-8 with respect to Section A2.6.2.1.3:**
  1. the adoption and approval procedures when a text is relevant to the topics of multiple SGs and to the circulation of objections received during the approval process;
  2. the need, if any, for revisions to ITU-R working methods for the adoption and approval of recommendations of interest to multiple ITU-R Study Groups.
  3. the need of fixing, if identified, any omissions, and/or contradictions of the existing texts

#### 2. **Possible revision of Resolution ITU-R 15-6 with respect to:**

2.1 the possibility of establishing maximum term of office for ITU-R Working Party Chairmen.

The (RAG CG-2) shall commence work at RAG-21 and submit the outcome of its work for consideration by the RAG-22 meeting, taking into account the information provided in Section 3.1.1 of Doc. RAG20/1Rev.1, and any other proposals relevant under the above Terms of Reference submitted to RAG Correspondence Group 2.

The work of the (RAG CG-2) should be performed, as much as possible, by correspondence in accordance with § A1.3.2.7 of Resolution ITU-R 1-8.

The Chairman of the (RAG CG-2) is <name> (E-mail: <email@address>). Correspondence Group dates: RAG-21 – TBD (45 days prior to the next meeting of RAG in 2022).

Other relevant information for the work of this Correspondence Group (e.g. email reflector) will be provided on the RAG webpage.

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