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| **World Radiocommunication Conference (WRC-19)Sharm el-Sheikh, Egypt, 28 October – 22 November 2019** |  |
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| PLENARY MEETING | **Addendum 5 toDocument 24(Add.24)-E** |
|  | **20 September 2019** |
|  | **Original: English** |
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| Asia-Pacific Telecommunity Common Proposals |
| Proposals for the work of the conference |
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| Agenda item 10 |

10 to recommend to the Council items for inclusion in the agenda for the next WRC, and to give its views on the preliminary agenda for the subsequent conference and on possible agenda items for future conferences, in accordance with Article 7 of the Convention.

Introduction

APT Members support the inclusion of the following item in the agenda of WRC-23:

- to consider improvement of efficiency in the use of the VHF maritime frequency bands 156.0125-157.4375 MHz and 160.6125-162.0375 MHz in the maritime mobile service.

Proposals

ADD ACP/24A24A5/1

Draft New Resolution [ACP-A10-WRC23] (WRC-19)

Agenda for the 2023 World Radiocommunication Conference

The World Radiocommunication Conference (Sharm el-Sheikh, 2019),

…

1.x to consider effective use of the VHF maritime frequency bands 156.0125-157.4375 MHz and 160.6125-162.0375 MHz in the maritime mobile service in accordance with Resolution **[ACP-E10-MARINE VHF]** **(WRC-19)**;

…

**Reasons:** Proposal for a new WRC-23 agenda item to consider effective use of the VHF maritime mobile in the frequency bands 156.0125-157.4375 MHz and 160.6125-162.0375 MHz.

ADD ACP/24A24A5/2

Draft New Resolution [ACP-E10-MARINE VHF] (WRC-19)

Consideration to provide improved efficiency in the use of the VHF maritime frequency bands 156.0125-157.4375 MHz and 160.6125-162.0375 MHz in the maritime mobile service

The World Radiocommunication Conference (Sharm el-Sheikh, 2019),

considering

*a)* that Appendix **18** identifies frequencies to be used for distress and safety communications and other maritime communications on an international basis;

*b)* that congestion on Appendix **18** frequencies requires consideration of efficient new technologies;

*c)* that ITU-R is conducting ongoing studies on improving efficiency in the use of Appendix **18**;

*d)* that the use of digital technologies will make it possible to respond to the emerging demand for new uses and ease congestion;

*e)* that use of existing maritime mobile service allocations, where practicable, for ship and port security and enhanced maritime safety would be preferable, particularly where international interoperability is required;

*f)* that changes made in Appendix **18** should not prejudice the future use of these frequencies or the capabilities of systems or new applications required for use by the maritime mobile service;

*g)* that IMO has initiated regulatory scoping exercise for the use of Maritime Autonomous Surface Ships (MASS),

recognizing

*a)* that there is a global requirement to enhance maritime safety, ship and port security via spectrum dependent systems;

*b)* that studies will be required to provide a basis for considering regulatory provisions, including additional allocations and recommendations, designed to accommodate spectrum requirements of maritime safety, ship and port security;

*c)* that, in order to provide worldwide interoperability of equipment on ships, there should be one harmonized technology, or interoperable technology, implemented under Appendix **18**;

*d)* that ITU and international standards organizations have initiated related studies on the use of digital technologies for maritime safety, ship and port security,

noting

*a)* that WRC-12, WRC-15 and WRC-19 have reviewed Appendix **18** to improve use and efficiency for data communication using digital systems;

*b)* that maritime on-board communication systems in the 450-470 MHz frequency band have implemented digital voice provided in the most recent version of Recommendation ITU‑R M.1174;

*c)* that digital systems have been implemented in the land mobile service,

resolves to invite WRC‑23

1 to consider amendments to provisions of the Radio Regulations necessary to provide for the operation of maritime safety, ship and port security;

2 to consider necessary changes to Appendix **18** in order to implement the efficient use of the maritime mobile service,

invites ITU‑R

to conduct studies, as a matter of urgency, to determine the necessary regulatory provisions, spectrum requirements, including additional allocations, to support maritime safety, ship and port security,

invites

1 IMO to actively participate in the studies by providing requirements and information that should be taken into account in ITU‑R studies;

2 the International Association of Marine Aids to Navigation and Lighthouse Authorities (IALA), the European Telecommunications Standards Institute (ETSI), the International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO) and the International Electrotechnical Commission (IEC) to contribute to these studies,

instructs the Secretary-General

to bring this Resolution to the attention of IMO and other international and regional organizations concerned.

**Reasons:** Please refer to the following table.

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| ***Subject:*** Proposal for WRC-23 new agenda item to consider improvement of efficiency in the use of the VHF maritime frequency bands 156.0125-157.4375 MHz and 160.6125-162.0375 MHz in the maritime mobile service. |
| ***Origin:*** Asia-Pacific Telecommunity (APT) |
| ***Proposal:***To consider effective use of the VHF maritime frequency bands 156.0125-157.4375 MHz and 160.6125-162.0375 MHz in the maritime mobile service in accordance with Resolution **[ACP‑E10-MARINE VHF]** (WRC-19) |
| ***Background/reason:***Maritime radiotelephone communications using the marine VHF frequency band (channelized in RR Appendix 18) were introduced in the early 1960s based on 25 kHz channel spacing and use of several duplex channels. Appendix **18** identifies frequencies to be used for distress and safety communications and other maritime communications on an international basis.Recently, communication using digital technology such as digital selective calling (DSC), automatic identification system (AIS) and VHF data exchange (VDE) has been introduced to the VHF marine frequency band, while the number of analogue voice communication channels has been reduced. However, the demand for voice communication has not declined, and congestion of the analogue voice communication channels is increasing.Proposals to increase use of UHF on-board communication channels was resolved on WRC-15 agenda item by dividing the 25 kHz analogue voice channels into each four 6.25 kHz digital voice channels. Technical characteristics of UHF on-board communication are recommended in Recommendation ITU-R M. 1174-3.Recommendation ITU-R M.1084-5 recommends an interim solutions for improved efficiency in the use of the band 156-174 MHz (RR Appendix **18)** by stations in the maritime mobile service. |
| ***Radiocommunication Services concerned:*** Maritime mobile service |
| ***Indication of possible difficulties:*** Appendix **18** identifies frequencies to be used for distress and safety communications and other maritime communications on an international basis. |
| ***Previous/ongoing studies on the issue:***Recommendations ITU-R M.1174-3 and ITU-R M.1084-5 |
| ***Studies to be carried out by:***ITU-R Working Party 5B | ***with participation of:***Other Working Parties as required, Member States, Sector Members, and International Organizations |
| ***ITU-R Study Groups concerned:***ITU-R Study Group 5 |
| ***ITU resource implications, including financial implications (refer to CV 126):***ITU-R Working Party 5B usually has meetings twice a year each requiring ten working days |
| ***Common regional proposal:***Yes | ***Multicountry Proposal:*** No***Number of countries:*** |
| ***Remarks*** |

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