

## RESOLUTION ITU-R 53

### **The use of radiocommunications in disaster response and relief**

(2007)

The ITU Radiocommunication Assembly,

*considering*

- a) the importance of disaster management telecommunications/information techniques in providing protection and relief for life and property, subjected to the effects of disasters, particularly at regional and subregional levels in developing countries;
- b) Resolution 136 (Antalya, 2006) of the Plenipotentiary Conference on the use of telecommunications/information and communication technologies for monitoring and management in emergency and disaster situations for early warning, prevention, mitigation and relief,

*considering further*

- a) Resolution 36 (Rev. Antalya, 2006) of the Plenipotentiary Conference on Telecommunications/information and communication technologies in the service of humanitarian assistance;
- b) Resolution 34 (Rev.Doha, 2006) of the World Telecommunication Development Conference on the role of telecommunications/information and communication technology in early warning and mitigation of disasters and humanitarian assistance, as well as the activities being undertaken within Programme 6 – Least Developed Countries and Small Island Developing States and Emergency Communications of the Doha Action Plan;
- c) that recent major disasters have highlighted a requirement for rapid spectrum coordination in the initial stages of the provision of humanitarian assistance to disaster-affected areas;
- d) the welcome initiative of the Secretary-General to create the ITU Inter-sectoral Emergency Communications Team (IECT) to promote coordination and collaboration on emergency communications issues across ITU,

*recognizing*

- a) that disaster response and management comprise a number of different but equally important aspects, such as early warning, prevention, mitigation and relief;
- b) that it is vital that the various necessary radio systems be managed cooperatively amongst administrations in order to predict, detect, mitigate and respond effectively to disaster event situations;
- c) that communication requirements in support of disaster relief, especially in the early stages of relief operations, include the provision of *in situ* terrestrial and satellite communication systems to aid in securing and stabilizing life and property in the disaster-affected area, and that such communication mechanisms must be able to operate without suffering from, or causing, harmful radio-frequency interference;

d) that disaster situations may occur that render a State unable to provide the necessary spectrum regulatory and management support required for effective relief operations for its citizens, and that the development of standard operating procedures and associated spectrum management mechanisms for use in such an event is an important element of emergency planning<sup>1</sup>,

*bearing in mind*

that spectrum management is a State's sovereign right and responsibility,

*taking into account*

- a) Resolutions 644 and 646 of the World Radiocommunication Conference;
- b) other relevant Resolutions adopted by WRC-07,

*emphasizing*

that ITU-R Study Groups have an important role in disaster management through their technical and operational studies and recommendations that support disaster prediction, detection, mitigation and response activities critical to minimizing the loss of life and property and for providing relief to disaster affected areas,

*resolves*

that, given the importance of the effective use of the radio-frequency spectrum for radiocommunications in disaster situations, the concerned ITU-R study groups undertake studies and develop guidelines related to the management of radiocommunications in disaster prediction, detection, mitigation and relief collaboratively and cooperatively within ITU and with organizations external to the Union,

*instructs the Director of the Radiocommunication Bureau*

- 1** in collaboration with the other two Sectors to assist Member States with their emergency radiocommunication preparedness activities such as a listing of currently available frequencies for use in emergency situations for inclusion in a database maintained by the Bureau;
- 2** in consultation with other international organizations, such as the United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs, the Working Group on Emergency Telecommunications (WGET) and taking into account the results of studies above, to assist with the development and dissemination of standard operating procedures for spectrum management in the event of disaster situation.

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<sup>1</sup> Taking into account, for example, the ITU-R Special Supplement on emergency and disaster relief.