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| **Telecommunication Standardization Bureau** |  |
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Geneva, 21 December 2010

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| Ref: | **TSB Circular 157** COM 2/RH | - To Administrations of Member States of the Union |
| Tel: Fax: E-mail: | +41 22 730 5887 +41 22 730 5853 [tsbsg2@itu.int](mailto:tsbsg2@itu.int) | **Copy:** - To ITU-T Sector Members; - To ITU-T Associates;  - To the Chairman and Vice-Chairmen of  Study Group 2;  - To the Director of the Telecommunication Development Bureau;  - To the Director of the Radiocommunication Bureau |

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| Subject: | **Questionnaire on Implementation of Early Warning /Disaster Relief systems in Member States** |

**Please return the attached questionnaire by 16 April 2011, at the latest**

Dear Sir/Madam,

1. With the frequent occurrence of natural disasters, it is recognized that emergency communications (EC) plays a very important role in disaster relief and early warning. Two related Recommendations, ITU-T E.106 and E.107 have been approved by ITU-T Study Group 2 (SG2), which is the lead Study Group on Early Warning/Disaster Relief.

2. Recommendation ITU-T E.106 “International Emergency Preference Scheme (IEPS) for disaster relief operations” was approved in 2003. The IEPS enables the use of public telecommunications by national authorities for emergency and disaster relief operations. It allows users, authorized by national authorities, to have access to the International Telephone Service, as described in Recommendation ITU-T E.105, while this service is restricted either due to damage, congestion or faults, or any combination of these. This Recommendation describes the functional requirements, features, access and the operational management of the IEPS.

3. Recommendation ITU-T E.107 “Emergency Telecommunications Service (ETS) and interconnection framework for national implementations of ETS” was approved in 2007 by Study Group 17. This Recommendation provides guidance that will enable telecommunications between one ETS national implementation (ENI) and other ENI(s) (authority-to-authority), in addition to providing a description of ETS.

4. Recommendation ITU-T X.1303 “Common alerting protocol (CAP 1.1)” was also approved in 2007 by SG17. The common alerting protocol (CAP) is a simple but general format for exchanging all-hazard emergency alerts and public warnings over all kinds of networks. CAP allows a consistent warning message to be disseminated simultaneously over many different warning systems, thus increasing warning effectiveness while simplifying the warning task. CAP also facilitates the detection of emerging patterns in local warnings of various kinds, such as might indicate an undetected hazard or hostile act, while also providing a template for effective warning messages based on best practices identified in academic research and real-world experience.

A 10-minute video presentation of CAP and its implementation can be accessed at:

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=n0iKp60jjtY>

Resolution 136 (rev. Guadalajara, 2010), 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, *resolves to instruct the Directors of the Bureau*, *inter alia*:

* to promote implementation by appropriate alerting authorities of the international content standard for all-media public warning, in concert with ongoing development of guidelines by all ITU Sectors for application to all disaster and emergency situations

Please note that the World Meteorological Organization (WMO) maintains a register of Alerting Authorities. This can be found at: <http://www-db.wmo.int/alerting/authorities.html>

5. Following discussions at the November 2010 meeting of SG2, noticing the progress made in the area of Emergency Communications by ITU and other major standards organizations, it was decided to collect information on implementation of Early Warning/Disaster Relief systems from the membership with the aim to develop a document on best practices on Early Warning/Disaster Relief systems, which might include description of a model system and a check list of major characteristics or functions of such a system.

6. In order to obtain the information that could assist SG2 in developing the document mentioned above, I invite Member States to provide the information in the questionnaire contained in **Annex 1** of this Circular.

7. In this context, I invite Member States to consider the provisions of Resolution 136 (rev. Guadalajara, 2010), which *encourages Member States*, *inter alia*:

* to work in close collaboration with the Secretary-General, the Directors of the Bureaux, as well as emergency telecommunication/ICT coordination mechanisms of the United Nations, in the development and dissemination of tools, procedures and best practices for the effective coordination and operation of telecommunications/ICTs in disaster situations;
* to facilitate the use by emergency organizations of both existing and new technologies and solutions (satellite and terrestrial), to the extent practicable, in order to satisfy interoperability requirements and to further the goals of public protection and disaster relief.

8. I would like to stress the importance of this questionnaire, which will enable a more comprehensive and complete view of Member States' experiences with respect to implementation of Early Warning/Disaster Relief systems, as well as provide useful information to progress the work on this subject.

9. Only the Administration representing the government of your country should reply to this questionnaire, and replies should reach the TSB by **16 April 2011** at the latest. The results will be published on the ITU-T web pages and in a further circular as soon as all replies have been received.

10. I encourage ITU-T Member States to forward this questionnaire to the appropriate sector/department responsible for Early Warning/Disaster Relief issues within the Administration and to provide TSB with the requested information.

11. Further, I invite the membership to submit contributions as appropriate to ITU-T Study Group 2, in particular:

a) Regarding their implementations and/or experiences in emergency communication for Early Warning/Disaster Relief, particularly on a national or international basis.

b) Regarding the principles, functions, requirements and services considered or implemented in the emergency communication system for Early Warning/Disaster Relief.

Yours faithfully,

Malcolm Johnson  
Director of the Telecommunication  
Standardization Bureau

**Annex**: 1

annex 1  
(to TSB Circular 157)

**Please return this questionnaire, duly completed, to the following address  
before 16 April 2011:**

**Telecommunication Standardization Bureau/ITU  
Place des Nations  
CH-1211 Geneva 20 (Switzerland)  
Fax: +41 22 730 5853  
Email:** [**tsbsg2@itu.int**](mailto:tsbsg2@itu.int)

Reply to the questionnaire on Implementation of Early Warning /Disaster Relief systems

Name of your Administration:

Country:

Contact person:

Tel: Fax:

Email:

Please fill out the following questions either on this survey or in a separate document to the best of your knowledge.

1. **Are there any reports or analyses on emergency communication aspects (including early warning /disaster relief) in the disasters that have occurred in your member state during the past 5 years?**

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
|  |  | Yes |
|  |  |  |
|  |  | No |

If yes, and if allowed by the relevant authorities, please attach the documents or provide the links to the web sites where they can be found.

1. **Has your Member State implemented any emergency communication system for early warning/disaster relief or is implementation in progress?**

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
|  |  | Yes, they have been implemented |
|  |  |  |
|  |  | They have not yet been implemented, but implementation is in progress |
|  |  |  |
|  |  | No, they have not been implemented and no implementation is in progress |

If no, is there any plan to implement it? If there are plans, please describe them:

If yes or implementation is in progress, please answer the following questions:

a) What are the major requirements of your system? For example, under conditions of severe damage or congestion, to be capable of effective network control, particularly over incoming traffic; to have priority mechanisms and features applicable to various aspects (e.g. signalling, control, routing and media traffic) that are essential for the establishment and continuation of the telecommunication in one or both directions:

b) What are the biggest problems you face in your implementation?

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| --- | --- | --- | --- |
|  |  | Developing and finalizing system requirements (e.g. the RFP) | |
|  |  |  | |
|  |  | Standardization issues | |
|  |  |  | |
|  |  | Development of specifications /procurement of equipment meeting your requirements | |
|  |  |  | |
|  |  | Compatibility and interoperability of equipment from different vendors | |
|  |  |  | |
|  |  | National coordination and institutional arrangements (e.g. between different involved | |
|  |  | authorities) | |
|  |  |  | |
|  |  | Other |  |

Explain as needed:

c) Please list and attach (if it is allowed) the related national or international standards applied in your system.

1. **Has your Member State adopted any policies and regulations that describe operator obligations to support emergency communications for Early Warning/Disaster Relief?**

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
|  |  | Yes |
|  |  |  |
|  |  | No |

If no, is there any plan to implement such obligations? If there are plans, please describe them.

If yes, and if allowed, please attach the policies and regulations or provide the links to the web sites where they can be found.

1. **Has your Member State implemented Recommendation ITU-T** [**E.106**](http://www.itu.int/itu-t/recommendations/index.aspx?ser=E)**?**

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| --- | --- | --- |
|  |  | Yes |
|  |  |  |
|  |  | No |

If no, is there any plan to implement it? If there are plans, please describe them.

If yes, has it been implemented partly or completely? If partly, please describe the parts that have been implemented.

1. **Has your Member State implemented Recommendation ITU-T** [**E.107**](http://www.itu.int/itu-t/recommendations/index.aspx?ser=E)**?**

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| --- | --- | --- |
|  |  | Yes |
|  |  |  |
|  |  | No |

If no, is there any plan to implement it? If there are plans, please describe them.

If yes, has it been implemented partly or completely? If partly, please describe the parts that have been implemented.

1. **Has your Member State implemented Recommendation ITU-T** [**X.1303**](http://www.itu.int/rec/T-REC-X.1303-200709-I)**?**

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
|  |  | Yes |
|  |  |  |
|  |  | No |

If no, is there any plan to implement it? If there are plans, please describe them.

If yes, has it been implemented partly or completely? If partly, please describe the parts that have been implemented.

1. **Other comments.**

Thank you.

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