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| African Telecommunication Union Administrations | | | |
| Proposed modification of Resolution 72 - Measurement concerns related to human exposure to electromagnetic fields | | | |
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| **Abstract:** | This contribution contains an African Common Proposal for the World Telecommunication Standardization Assembly (WTSA-16), which proposes to amend Resolution 72 addressing the measurement issues related to exposure to electromagnetic fields to guarantee the protection and the health of people without blocking the expansion of telecommunication networks |

# 1 Introduction

Taking into account the concerns of people living at the vicinities of telecommunications facilities such as schools, homes, etc., and obstacles that sometimes operators face to install new facilities due to discharges from local residents, it is necessary that the countries have a regulatory framework that meets the growing needs of telecom operators, taking into account control exposure of Humans to RF energy to reassure and protect people.

# 2 Proposal

Accordingly, it is proposed to amend Resolution 72 by an addition of references and decisions, and recall the need for coordination between the three ITU sectors to avoid duplication of efforts.

The urgent need for regulators in many developing countries is to obtain information on EMF measurement methods regarding human exposure to RF energy to establish national regulations to protect their citizens.

And That ITU-T takes into account the needs of developing countries regarding the measurement of electromagnetic fields associated with human exposure and transmit, by the Secretary-General, the resolution to the attention of the Conference of Plenipotentiary (2018) for consideration and necessary action, as appropriate, when considering Resolution 176 (Rev. Busan, 2014).

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RESOLUTION 72 (REV. HAMMAMET, 2016)

**Measurement concerns related to human exposure to electromagnetic fields**

*(Johannesburg, 2008; Dubai, 2012; Hammamet, 2016)*

The World Telecommunication Standardization Assembly (Hammamet, 2016),

*considering*

*a)* the importance of telecommunications and information and communication technologies (ICT) for political, economic, social and cultural progress;

*b)* that a significant part of the infrastructure needed to help bridge the digital divide between developed and developing countries[[1]](#footnote-1)1 involves various wireless technologies;

*c)* that there is a need to inform the public of the potential effects of exposure to electromagnetic fields (EMF);

*d)* that an enormous amount of research has been carried out regarding wireless systems and health, and many independent expert committees have reviewed this research;

*e)* that the International Commission on Non-Ionizing Radiation Protection (ICNIRP), the International Electrotechnical Commission (IEC) and the Institute of Electrical and Electronics Engineers (IEEE) are three among a number of pre-eminent international bodies in establishing measurement methodologies for assessing human exposure to EMF, and they already cooperate with many standards bodies and industry forums;

*f)* that the World Health Organization (WHO) has issued fact sheets regarding EMF issues, including mobile terminals, base stations and wireless networks, referencing ICNIRP standards;

*g)* Resolution 176 (Rev. Busan, 2014) of the Plenipotentiary Conference, on human exposure to and measurement of electromagnetic fields;

*h)* Resolution 62 (Rev. Dubai, 2014) of the World Telecommunication Development Conference, on measurement concerns related to human exposure to electromagnetic fields;

*e)* that there is ongoing work in the three sectors relating to human exposure to EMF, and that liaison and collaboration between the sectors with other specialized organizations is important, in order to avoid duplication of efforts,

*recognizing*

*a)* the work done within ITU Radiocommunication Sector (ITU‑R) study groups on radiowave propagation, electromagnetic compatibility (EMC) and related aspects, including measurement methods;

*b)* the work done within Study Group 5 of the ITU Telecommunication Standardization Sector (ITU‑T) on techniques for taking radio-frequency (RF) measurements;

*c)* that Study Group 5, in establishing measurement methodologies for assessing human exposure to RF energy, already cooperates with many participating standards organizations (PSOs),

*recognizing further*

*a)* that some publications about EMF effects on health create doubt among the population, in particular in developing countries;

*b)* that, in the absence of regulation, people, in particular in developing countries, become more and more doubtful and are increasingly opposing the deployment of radio installations in their neighbourhoods;

*c)* that the cost of the equipment used for assessing human exposure to RF energy is very high, and that the equipment is more likely to be affordable only in developed countries;

*d)* that implementing such measurement is essential for many regulatory authorities, in particular in developing countries, in order to monitor the limits for human exposure to RF energy, and that they are called upon to ensure those limits are met in order to license different services,

*noting*

*a)* the similar activities carried out by other national, regional and international standards development organizations (SDOs);

*b)* the urgent need for regulatory bodies in many developing countries to obtain information on EMF measurement methodologies in regard to human exposure to radio-frequency energy, in order to establish national regulations to protect their citizens,

*resolves*

to instruct ITU‑T, in particular Study Group 5, to cooperate with ITU-R Study Group 1 and 6, and with ITU-D Study Group 1 in order to expand and continue its work and support in this domain, including but not limited to:

i) disseminating information related to this topic through organizing workshops and seminars for regulators, operators and any interested stakeholders from developing countries;

ii) continuing to cooperate and collaborate with other organizations working on this topic and to leverage their work, in particular with a view to assisting the developing countries in the establishment of standards and in monitoring compliance with these standards, especially on telecommunication terminals;

iii) cooperating on these issues in the framework of Question 23/1;

iv) strengthening coordination and cooperation with WHO so that any fact sheet relating to human exposure to electromagnetic fields is circulated to Member States as soon as it is issued,

*instructs the Director of the Telecommunication Standardization Bureau, in close collaboration with the Directors of the other two Bureaux, and within the available financial resources*

1 to support the development of reports identifying the needs of developing countries on the issue of assessing human exposure to EMF, and submit the reports as soon as possible to ITU-T Study Group 5 for its consideration and action in accordance with its mandate;

2 to hold workshops in developing countries with presentations and training on the use of equipment employed in assessing human exposure to RF energy;

3 to support developing countries while they establish their regional centres equipped with test benches for monitoring conformance of telecommunication terminal equipment and human exposure to electromagnetic waves using, among other things, the modalities listed in [Resolutions 44 (Rev. Hammamet, 2016)] and [76 (Rev. Hammamet, 2016)] of this assembly, in the context of the development of the regional test centres and of Resolution 177 ( Rev. Busan, 2014) of the Plenipotentiary Conference,

requests the Secretary-General

1 to coordinate the activities carried out by the three ITU Sectors in accordance with the above;

2 to bring this resolution to the attention of the Plenipotentiary Conference (2018) for consideration and required action, as appropriate, when reviewing Resolution 176 (Rev. Busan, 2014), *invites Member States and Sector Members*

1 to contribute actively to the work of Study Group 5 in providing relevant and timely information in order to assist developing countries in providing information and addressing measurement concerns related to RF exposure and electromagnetic fields;

2 to conduct periodic reviews to ensure that ITU Recommendations and other relevant international standards related to the exposure to EMF are followed;

3 to raise public awareness of the health effects of human exposure to nonionizing EMF, by conducting different types of awareness-raising campaigns;

4 to cooperate and share expertise and resources between developed and developing countries in order to help governmental administrations, especially in developing countries, to establish an appropriate regulatory framework for protecting people and environment from non-ionizing radiation,

*further invites Member States*

to adopt suitable measures in order to ensure compliance with relevant international recommendations to protect health against the adverse effect of EMF.

1. 1 These include the least developed countries, small island developing states, landlocked developing countries and countries with economies in transition. [↑](#footnote-ref-1)