

The Tampere Convention on the Provision
of Telecommunication Resources for
Disaster Mitigation and Relief Operations
Opportunities and Benefits



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Background

- International Conference on Disaster Communications (Geneva, 1990).
- Based on 50 international regulatory instruments including the Constitution of the ITU, calling for absolute priority to emergency life-saving communications.
- Tampere Declaration on Disaster Communications (Tampere, 1991).
- United Nations General Assembly adopted Resolution 46/182, for strengthening international coordination of humanitarian emergency assistance.

Relavant UN and ITU Resolutions

- United Nations General Assembly Resolution 44/236, designating 1990-2000 the International Decade for Natural Disaster Reduction.
- United Nations General Assembly resolution 46/182, for strengthening international coordination of humanitarian emergency assistance.
- ITU Plenipotentiary Conference of 2006 Resolutions 36, and 136.
- ITU World Telecommunication Development Conference of 2006 (WTDC-06) Resolution 34.



ITU

(ITU Constitution)

ARTICLE 1 - Purposes of the Union:

2 - To this end, the Union shall in particular:

g) : “promote the adoption of measures for ensuring the safety of life through the cooperation of telecommunication services”.



Tampere Convention – Facts!

- Provides the legal framework for the use of telecommunications in international humanitarian assistance
- Fully protects the interests of the States requesting and receiving assistance. The host government retains the right to supervise the assistance. Fully respects the sovereignty of the state
- Foresees the establishment of bilateral agreements between the provider(s) of assistance and the State requesting/receiving such assistance.
- Reducing and Waiving Regulatory Barriers
- Ensuring Privileges and Immunities for Relief Personnel



Tampere Convention – Overview

The **Preamble** of the Convention notes the essential role of telecommunications in humanitarian assistance and the need for its facilitation, and **recalls the major legal instruments**, such as respective Resolutions of *United Nations* and of the *International Telecommunications Union*, which prepared the way for the Tampere Convention.

Definitions

Article 1: defines the **terms used in the Convention**. Of particular significance are the definitions of non-governmental organizations and non-State entities, as the Tampere Convention is the first treaty of its kind which attributes **privileges and immunities** to their personnel.

Coordination

Article 2 describes the **operational coordination**, to be carried out by the United Nations Emergency Relief Coordinator (i.e. through the United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs, OCHA).



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Provision of Telecommunication Assistance

*Article 4 describes the **procedures** for request and provision of telecommunications assistance, specifically recognizing the right of a State Party to direct, control and coordinate assistance provided under this Convention within its territory.*

Privileges, Immunities, and Facilities

*Article 5 defines the **privileges, immunities and facilities** to be provided by the Requesting State Party, again emphasizing that nothing in this Article shall prejudice rights and obligations pursuant to international agreements or international law.*

Termination of Assistance

*Articles 6, 7 and 8 define **specific elements** and aspects of the provision of telecommunication assistance, such as Termination of Assistance, Payment or Reimbursement of Costs or Fees, and establishment of a Telecommunications Assistance Inventory.*

Payments or Reimbursement of Costs or Fees

*Article 9 can be considered as the core element of the Tampere Convention, as the **Removal of Regulatory Barriers** has been the primary aim of the work towards this treaty since 1990.*



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The remaining **Articles, 10 to 17**, contain the **standard provisions** concerning:

- **Article 10:** *Convention's Relationship to Other International Agreements,*
- **Article 11:** *Dispute Settlement*
- **Article 12:** *Entry into Force*
- **Article 13:** *Amendments*
- **Article 14:** *Reservations*
- **Article 15:** *Denunciation*
- **Article 16:** *Depository (is the Secretary-General of the United Nations)*
- **Article 17:** *Authentic texts*

Ratification of the Convention

When the Convention was adopted, a State could express its consent to be bound by the Convention by any of the following means:

- By definitive signature
- By signature subject to ratification, acceptance, or approval followed by deposit of an instrument of ratification, acceptance or approval
- By deposit of an instrument of ratification

Administrative Parties Involved in the Tampere Convention

UN - SECRETARY GENERAL

DEPOSITARY OF THE CONVENTION

OFFICE OF LEGAL AFFAIRS TREATY SECTION UN HQ

IN CHARGE OF RELEVANT PROCEDURES

UN RELIEF COORDINATOR

OPERATIONAL COORDINATOR

OCHA WORKING CLOSELY WITH ITU

IN CHARGE OF THE IMPLEMENTATION

WORKING GROUP ON EMERGENCY TELECOMMUNICATIONS

ADVISORY BOARD



Tampere Convention: Current Status

- Tampere Convention was concluded in 1998
- Came into force on January 8 of 2005
- Currently, there are 46 countries that have ratified the treaty
- A number of countries in various regions are currently working on the ratification of this treaty
- Luxemburg was the latest Member State to Ratify the Convention

List of countries that have ratified the Tampere Convention

AFRICA	ARAB STATES	ASIA
Kenya	Lebanon	Armenia
Uganda	Kuwait	India
Liberia	Morocco	Pakistan
Guinea	Oman	Sri Lanka

12 Member States



List of countries that have ratified the Tampere Convention

EUROPE

Bulgaria	Hungary	Romania	Iceland
Czech Republic	Ireland	Slovakia	Montenegro
Cyprus	Liechtenstein	Spain	United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland
Denmark	Lithuania	Sweden	France
Finland	Netherland	Switzerland	Luxemburg

20 Member States



List of countries that have ratified the Tampere Convention

AMERICAS	
Argentina	Nicaragua
Canada	Panama
Colombia	Peru
Guinea	Venezuela
El Salvador	Uruguay

CARIBBEAN AND THE PACIFIC
Barbados
Dominica
Saint Vincent and the Greandines
Tonga

14 Member States



Challenges in Ratifying



- Lack of Mandate and Organizational Structures
- Lack of inter-agency coordination
- Lack of awareness of the benefits the convention brings
- Long ratification processes
- Lack of thorough study of the convention (fear of the unknown)

Future Actions

- Ratification of the convention
- Implementation of the ratified convention
- Make an inventory of resources available (equipment, personnel, etc.) for disaster mitigation and relief
- Develop/Review emergency telecommunication plan and standard operating procedures
- Establish organizational structures to ensure effective coordination and cooperation for better DM activities



Opportunities

- Member States get closer to the International community on disaster and risk management
- Facilitate better cooperation among National agencies within the country
- Establish long lasting bridges with International Organizations (ITU, UNOCHA, UNHCR, IFRC, WFP, etc) that in case of disaster will be of big advantage to coordinate relief activities.
- **In case of a disaster effectively coordinate relief activities with external and internal organizations**



Benefits

- Puts in place an international legal framework for managing requests for assistance
- Creates mechanisms for establishing best practices, model agreements, etc.
- Improves preparedness before disasters strikes
- Facilitates the deployment of telecommunications/ICT resources in the immediate aftermath of disasters
- **Protects the interests of the host states**

Thank you

