TAMPERE CONVENTION
RATIFICATION AND IMPLEMENTATION

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ITU: Committed to help the world communicate

193 MEMBER STATES

700 SECTOR MEMBERS

135 ACADEMIA MEMBERS

3 SECTORS →

Standardization

Radiocommunication

Development

→ Each sector has separate mandate, but all work cohesively towards connecting the world

When disasters strike

- Telecommunication links are disrupted…
- Mobile networks are down …

But there is an urgent need to establish effective communication links for disaster response and coordination...

- At a national level, between stakeholders involved in response and recovery
- At an international level, among aid agencies (UN, NGOs, etc.)

There is a need to improve international cooperation to ensure that connectivity is available in remote and rural areas, as well as in those parts of a country where existing telecommunications/ICT infrastructure has been destroyed.

Importation of telecommunications equipment is vital to re-establish communications that will help with humanitarian activities and recovery efforts.

Tampere Convention

An international treaty

" On the Provision of Telecommunication Resources for Disaster Mitigation and Relief Operations"

The "Tampere Hall" in Tampere, Finland, where the treaty on Telecommunication for Disaster Mitigation and Relief was signed on 18 June 1998.

Background

- International Conference on Disaster Communications (Tampere, Finland, 1991), adopted the Tampere Declaration on Disaster Communication.

- Based on 50 international regulatory instruments including the constitution of the ITU, calling for absolute priority to emergency life-saving communications.

- The Tampere declaration stressed the need to create an international legal instrument on telecommunication provision for disaster mitigation and relief. This led to the Tampere Convention on the Provision of Telecommunication Resources for Disaster Mitigation and Relief Operations, in 1998.

Other ITU/UN Resolutions

- International Conference on Disaster Communications (Geneva, 1990)

- The prominent role given to communication resources in the Yokohama Strategy and Plan of Action for a Safer World, adopted by the World Conference on Natural Disaster Reduction (Yokohama, 1994),

- Resolution 7 of the World Telecommunication Development Conference (Buenos Aires, 1994), endorsed by Resolution 36 of the Plenipotentiary Conference of the International Telecommunication Union (Kyoto, 1994), urging governments to take all practical steps for facilitating the rapid deployment and the effective use of telecommunication equipment for disaster mitigation and relief operations by reducing and, where possible, removing regulatory barriers and strengthening cooperation among States

Other ITU/UN Resolutions

- Resolution 644 of the World Radiocommunication Conference (Geneva, 1997), urging governments to give their full support to the adoption of this Convention and to its national implementation,

- Resolution 19 of the World Telecommunication Development Conference (Valletta, 1998), urging governments to continue their examination of this Convention with a view to considering giving their full support to its adoption,

- United Nations General Assembly Resolution 51/194, encouraging the development of a transparent and timely procedure for implementing effective disaster relief coordination arrangements, and of ReliefWeb as the global information system for the dissemination of reliable and timely information on emergencies and natural disasters.

Other ITU/UN Resolutions

- United Nations General Assembly Resolution 44/236, designating 1990-2000 the International Decade for Natural Disaster Reduction,

- United Nations General Assembly adopted resolution 46/182, for strengthening international coordination of humanitarian emergency assistance.

- ITU Plenipotentiary Conference (PP-06) Resolution 36, "Telecommunication/information and communication technologies in the service of humanitarian assistance", inviting Member States "to work towards their accession to the Tampere Convention as a matter of priority", and urging Member States Parties to the Tampere Convention "to take all practical steps for the application of the Tampere Convention and to work closely with the Operational Coordinator as provided for therein."

- ITU World Telecommunication Development Conference (WTDC-06) Resolution 34, "The role of telecommunications/information technology in early warning and mitigation of disasters and humanitarian assistance", requesting the Telecommunication Development Bureau "to support administrations in their work towards the implementation of the Tampere Convention."

Tampere Convention evolution

- Tampere Convention was concluded in **1998**

- Came into force on **January 8 of 2005**

- Currently, there are **60** signatories and **49** countries that have ratified the Convention. Cape Verde on **March 2018**.

- More countries in various regions are working on the ratification of this treaty

Tampere Convention

- Provides the legal framework for the use of telecommunications in international humanitarian assistance

- Reduces regulatory barriers

- Fully protects the interests of the States requesting and receiving assistance. The host government retains the right to supervise the assistance

- Foresees the establishment of bilateral agreements between the provider(s) of assistance and the State requesting/receiving such assistance

Tampere Convention

This Convention is based on the following basic principles:

- *Reduce regulatory barriers*: signatories agree to reduce regulatory barriers to the transit of personnel, equipment, materials and information through the affected territory. Parties to the Convention agree to "reduce or eliminate regulatory barriers to the use of telecommunications resources for mitigation and disaster relief".

- *Guarantee the necessary privileges, immunities and facilities for relief personnel and organizations providing telecommunications assistance, such as*:
    - Immunity from arrest, detention or prosecution;
    - Immunity from confiscation or embargo of their equipment, materials and property;
    - Exemptions from tax obligations and other charges (excluding VAT);
    - Access to local facilities;
    - Exemption from licensing requirements or fast tracking of licensing applications; and
    - Protection of staff, equipment and materials.
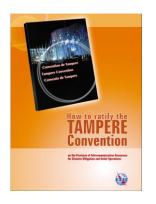
Process of Ratification

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

Who can sign?

- Head of State/Government

- Foreign Minister

- Other designated official with the power of attorney

Ratification

Sample of an instrument of full powers

I _____ [name and title of the Minister of Foreign Affairs, Head of Government or Head of State] _____

HEREBY AUTHORIZE _____ [name and title] _____

to _____ [sign*/ratify/denounce/effect the following declaration in respect of] _____

the TAMPERE CONVENTION on the Provision of Telecommunication Resources for Disaster Mitigation and Relief Operations on behalf of the

Government of _____ [name of State] _____

Done at _____ [place] _____   on _____ [date] _____

_____ [signature]

Example of ratification

Declarations and Reservations
(Unless otherwise indicated, the declarations and reservations were made upon definitive signature, ratification, acceptance, approval or accession.)

Colombia
Reservation:
The Government of the Republic of Colombia formulates a reservation to paragraph 3 of article 11, by means of which Colombia does not consider itself bound by either of both of the dispute settlement procedures provided for in paragraph 3 of article 11.

Ireland
Reservation:
"Whereas to the extent to which certain provisions of the Tampere Convention on the Provision of Telecommunications Resources for Disaster Mitigation and Relief Operations ("the Convention") fall within the responsibility of the European Community, the full implementation of the Convention by Ireland has to be done in accordance with the procedures of this international organisation."

Luxembourg
Reservation:
To the extent to which certain provisions of the Tampere Convention on the Provision of Telecommunications Resources for Disaster Mitigation and Relief Operations fall within the area of responsibility of the European Community, the full implementation of the Convention by Luxembourg has to be done in accordance with the procedures of this international organisation.

Montenegro
Reservation:
"In accordance with Article 14 of the Tampere Convention on the Provisions of Telecommunications Resources for Disaster Mitigation and Relief Operations, adopted at Tampere, 18 June 1998, the Government of Montenegro declares that this Convention shall not apply to:
To the extent to which certain provisions of the Tampere Convention on the Provisions of Telecommunications Resources for Disaster Mitigation and Relief Operations ("the Convention") fall within the area of responsibility of the European Community, the full implementation of the Convention by Montenegro has to be done in accordance with the procedures of this international organization."

Process of implementation

Implementation of Tampere differs for many countries, simplified process may look like:

- National Legislation on Tampere Implementation

- Awareness Creation – inform national stakeholders and agencies on the legislation and ensure its implementation

- Activation Process – when the Tampere is to be activated during disaster

Benefits

- Puts in place a structure for managing requests for assistance

- Creates mechanisms for establishing best practices, model agreements, etc.

- Improves preparedness before disasters occur

- Facilitates the deployment of telecommunications/ICT resources in the immediate aftermath of disasters

- Protects the interests of beneficiary states

Benefits

- A 'Multilateral Agreement on Emergencies' amongst Arab countries through the operational coordinator will be more effective and beneficial for Arab region

- Sharing of information related to authorities, non-State entities, specific telecom resources and emergency plans with operational coordinator will help the coordinator to disseminate this information to member countries

Challenges

- Lack of awareness and knowledge about the benefits of the convention

- Long ratification procedures

- No implementation processes

- Lack of coordination mechanisms at a national level

- No national legislation on Tampere Implementation

- Absence of activation process

Ways forward

- Build capacity and raise awareness on the importance of this Treaty at a national/regional level

- Develop guidelines on how to ratify the Convention

- Develop implementation processes and mechanisms that can provide guidance to countries that have signed and ratify the convention

- Prepare in advance a list of specific telecommunication resources and plans that an organization may have for the use of these resources to respond to a request for telecommunications assistance.

- Create partnerships among organizations to work together towards creating an implementation framework

List of countries that have ratified the Tampere Convention

AFRICA
Kenya
Uganda
Liberia
Guinea
Burundi
Cape Verde

ARAB STATES
Lebanon
Kuwait
Morocco
Oman

ASIA
Nepal
India
Pakistan
Sri Lanka

14 Countries

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 Nothern Ireland
Denmark	Lithuania	Sweden	France
Finland	Netherland	Switzerland	Albania
Luxembourg	Belgium	Armenia	

22 Countries

List of countries that have ratified the Tampere Convention

AMERICAS	
Argentina	Nicaragua
Canada	Panama
Colombia	Peru
El Salvador	Venezuela
Uruguay	

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

13 Countries

I THANK YO**U**