



Radiocommunication Bureau (BR)

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NIG, NMB, RRW, SDN, SEY, SOM, SRL,
SSD, SWZ, TZA, UGA, ZMB, ZWE
African Telecommunication Union

Subject: **The 1st frequency coordination meeting on the GE84 Plan Optimization for Africa, 15-19 February 2021 - Virtual meeting**

Refs: **a) BR Circular Letter CR/448 dated 28 August 2019**
b) Invitation letter 31E(BCD)O-2020-003119 dated 21 August 2020 relating to GE84 Plan optimization workshop

Dear Madam, Sir,

As you are certainly aware, the ITU Radiocommunication Bureau (BR), in collaboration with the African Telecommunication Union (ATU), is undertaking a project for the optimization of the GE84 Plan for African countries.

The main purpose of this GE84 Plan Optimization project for Africa is to achieve an efficient use of the 87.5-108 MHz (FM) band for analogue sound broadcasting by identifying new frequency channels for FM broadcasting to meet the increasing need for additional frequency channels in African countries.

This optimization project requires the strong involvement of the participating administrations, to provide the necessary data and actively participate in frequency coordination meetings to successfully identify additional mutually compatible assignments.

According to the original Work Plan, the GE84 optimization would have to be accomplished via a series of physical multilateral frequency coordination meetings. Such meetings would include training in using the compatibility software developed by BR, agreement on the optimization approach and criteria, as well as multilateral coordination and frequency planning. In the meantime, BR would run compatibility calculations (iterations) for the frequency requirements of administrations every other week, allowing the countries to continue bi- or multilateral frequency coordination negotiations among involved administrations between the meetings.

However, this original Work Plan has been changed in view of global concern about the [COVID-19](#) outbreak and the current restrictions on face-to-face meetings and international travel, which prevent from having physical coordination meetings.

Therefore, I am pleased to inform you that the 1st frequency coordination meeting, organized in collaboration with ATU, will take place virtually from **15 to 19 February 2021**.

The meeting is not intended to conclude any formal agreement, but to build informal consensus towards the conclusion of formal agreements among the administrations involved. Based on these agreements, the administrations would formally submit the coordinated frequency assignments to the ITU, at the end of this optimization project, in order to update the GE84 Plan.

The meeting will focus on the process necessary to ensure the compatibility of national frequency plans in support of FM broadcasting in the 87.5 – 108 MHz, taking into account:

- existing GE84 Plan entries;
- pending modifications to the GE84 Plan, published in Part A of Special Sections GE84;
- current and future plans for FM broadcasting;

During this meeting the administrations would need to agree on general criteria for consideration of assignable channels, such as acceptable nuisance field strength (NFS), the use of coordination information, number of layers, polarization discrimination, etc., as well as on the timelines and activities for frequency assignment and planning.

Similarly to the previous frequency coordination exercises among African countries and among Arab States on the re-arrangement of some GE06 frequency channels, the GE84 coordination process will require a number of iterations, which could be conducted by correspondence following the meeting, until the next coordination meetings tentatively planned for July and December 2021. Typically, the process involves:

- a new iteration every other week;
- submission of the updated requirements by participating administrations every other Friday;
- compatibility calculations made by BR based on the submitted requirements;
- distribution of the compatibility calculations results on the following Monday;
- assistance to participants throughout the process, in the analysis and proposals to reduce potential interference.

In order to provide support to the meeting, the ITU Radiocommunication Bureau has made available to the participants, during the Workshop mentioned in reference b) above, the compatibility analysis software for this process and provided the relevant presentations and demonstrations.

Please note that this meeting is primarily intended for experts in FM broadcasting frequency planning. Therefore, the presence of broadcasting planning experts from the regulatory entities is **highly recommended**.

It is also strongly recommended that, before this meeting, the participants review the workshop presentations and documentation, and familiarize themselves with the GE84 software. The relevant material is available at

<https://www.itu.int/en/ITU-R/terrestrial/broadcast/africa/Pages/Workshop.aspx>.

Languages

The meeting will be held in French and English, with simultaneous interpretation. In order to facilitate mutual understanding, the BR staff attending the meeting will speak both languages.

Format

The meeting will follow an online format, with a daily session from **9am to 4.45pm, Geneva time** (including breaks). A draft program is in Annex 1.

An email containing instructions about the platform and its access will be sent before the event.

Laptops/computers should meet the set of minimal requirements detailed on the project website.

Registration

Registration to this event is mandatory and will be carried out exclusively on-line via Designated Focal Points (DFPs) for ITU-R event registration. The Radiocommunication Bureau has deployed, since May 2019, a new event registration platform where participants must first complete an online registration form and submit their registration request for approval by the corresponding focal point. An ITU/TIES account is required to submit a registration request and obtain registration approval from the corresponding focal point. For any queries related to registration to this event, please contact ITU-R.Registrations@itu.int .

Please confirm your participation as soon as possible by registering to this coordination meeting as outlined above.

All information relating to the GE84 Optimization project, including event registration, is available at <https://www.itu.int/en/ITU-R/terrestrial/broadcast/africa/Pages/default.aspx>.

I look forward to the participation of your Administration in this important event in order to reach the most effective results.

The BR remains at your disposal for any further assistance or clarification you may require.

Yours faithfully,

Mario Maniewicz
Director

Annex 1

1st Frequency Coordination Meeting on GE84 Plan Optimization for Africa
15 to 19 February, virtual meeting

Preliminary Program

Time	15 February	16 February	17 February	18 February	19 February
09:00-10:20	09:00 – 09:20 Opening –ITU and ATU Presentation on GE84 optimization project	Frequency coordination/ Analysis of iteration0 results	Frequency coordination/ Analysis of iteration1 results	Frequency coordination/ Analysis of iteration2 results	Frequency coordination/ Analysis of iteration3 results
10:20-10:40	Coffee Break	Coffee Break	Coffee Break	Coffee Break	Coffee Break
10:40-12:00	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • GE84 Optimization calculations in eTools • ITU-R P.1812 and P.1546 propagation prediction calculations in eTools 	Frequency coordination/ Analysis of iteration0 results	Frequency coordination/ Analysis of iteration1 results	Frequency coordination/ Analysis of iteration2 results	Frequency coordination/ Analysis of iteration3 results
12:00-14:00	Lunch Break	Lunch Break	Lunch Break	Lunch Break	Lunch Break
14:00-15:20	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Compatibility analysis for new frequency requirements (case study based on Iteration 0). • Installation of the BR software and training. 	Frequency coordination/ Analysis of iteration0 results	Frequency coordination/ Analysis of iteration1 results	Frequency coordination/ Analysis of iteration2 results	Frequency coordination/ Analysis of iteration3 results
15:20-15:40	Coffee Break	Coffee Break	Coffee Break	Coffee Break	Coffee Break
15:40-17:00	ITU Tools for preparation of requirements (T01, TB5), validation and addition of coordination information.	Frequency coordination/ Analysis of iteration0 results	Frequency coordination/ Analysis of iteration1 results	Frequency coordination/ Analysis of iteration2 results	Wrap-up and Future work
18:00		Deadline for submission of requirements for iteration1	Deadline for submission of requirements for iteration2	Deadline for submission of requirements for iteration3	