

QUESTION 7/2

Strategies and policies concerning human exposure to electromagnetic fields

1 Statement of the situation or problem

The deployment of different sources of electromagnetic fields to cater for the telecommunication and ICT needs of urban and rural communities has developed very rapidly over the past ten years. This has been due to strong competition, ongoing traffic growth, quality-of-service requirements, network coverage extension and the introduction of new technologies.

It has prompted concern on the possible effects of prolonged exposure to emissions on people's health.

This concern on the part of populations is growing, aggravated by the feeling that they are not being kept informed in regard to the process for deploying these installations; hence many complaints received by operators and government bodies responsible for radiocommunications/ICTs.

Thus, since the continued development of radiocommunications requires trust on the part of populations, the work carried out in ITU-R Study Group 1 Working Party 1C and in ITU-T Study Group 5 under Resolution 72 of the World Telecommunication Standardization Assembly, on measurement concerns related to human exposure to electromagnetic fields, should be complemented by studies on the different regulatory and communication mechanisms developed by countries to increase the awareness of and information to populations and facilitate the deployment and operation of radiocommunication systems.

2 Question or issue for study

The following subjects should be studied:

- a) Compilation and analysis of the regulatory policies concerning human exposure to electromagnetic fields that are being considered or implemented for authorizing the installation of radiocommunication sites and powerline telecommunication systems.
- b) Description of the strategies or methods for raising the awareness of populations and increasing information to populations regarding the effects of electromagnetic fields due to radiocommunication systems.
- c) Proposed guidelines and best practices on this matter.

3 Expected outcome

- a) A report to the membership presenting guidelines to assist Member States in resolving similar problems faced by regulatory bodies.
- b) The report will provide regulatory authorities with guidelines on methods for raising the awareness of populations along with best practices based on countries' experience in the matter.

4 Timing

A provisional report is to be presented to the study group in 2015. It is proposed that the study be completed in 2017, at which date a final report containing guidelines will be submitted.

5 Proposers/sponsors

Member States.

6 Sources of input

- Member States, Sector Members
- Regional organizations
- ITU Sectors
- World Health Organization
- International Commission on Non-Ionizing Radiation Protection (ICNIRP)
- Institute of Electrical and Electronics Engineers (IEEE)
- BDT focal points.

7 Target audience

a) Target audience - Who specifically will use the input?

Target audience	Developed countries	Developing countries ¹
Telecom/ICT decision-makers, local authorities	Yes	Yes
Telecom/ICT regulators	Yes	Yes
Service providers/operators	Yes	Yes
Constructors/equipment provider	Yes	Yes

b) Proposed methods for implementation of the results

The results of the Question are to be distributed through ITU-D reports, or as agreed during the study period in order to address the Question for study.

8 Proposed methods of handling the Question or issue

Close coordination is essential with ITU-D programmes, as well as with other relevant ITU-D study Questions and ITU-R study groups dealing with ICT for climate change, and ITU-T Study Groups 5 and 7.

¹ These include the least developed countries, small island developing states, landlocked developing countries and countries with economies in transition.

- a) How?**
- 1) Within a study group:
- Question (over a multi-year study period)
- 2) Within regular BDT activity:
- Programmes
 - Projects
 - Expert consultants
- 3) In other ways – describe (e.g. regional, within other organizations, jointly with other organizations, etc.)
- b) Why?**

To ensure that the work and output of this study Question is not duplicated and that there is better collaboration among BDT, the other ITU Sectors, Sector Members and other United Nations agencies.

9 Coordination and collaboration

The ITU-D study group dealing with this Question will need to coordinate with:

- Relevant ITU-D Question(s)
- Relevant BDT programme(s)
- Regional offices
- Relevant ITU-R and ITU-T study groups
- Working Group on Emergency Telecommunications (WGET)
- Relevant international, regional and scientific organizations with mandates relevant to this Question.

10 BDT programme link

Objective 5, Output 5.1

11 Other relevant information

To be defined in the work plan.