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Composition of the High-Level Committee

■ Region A—The Americas (four seats)

Brazil
Canada
Colombia
United States

■ Region B—Western Europe (four seats)

Denmark
France
Germany (Fed. Rep. of)
United Kingdom

■ Region C—Eastern Europe and Northern Asia (two seats)

USSR
Yugoslavia

■ Region D—Africa (five seats)

Algeria
Mali
Morocco
Senegal
Zimbabwe

■ Region E—Asia and Australasia (six seats)

Australia
China
India
Indonesia
Japan
Saudi Arabia

The ITU adopts a frequency plan for television in Africa and neighbouring countries

The Second Session of the Regional Administrative Conference for the planning of VHF/UHF television broadcasting in the African broadcasting area and neighbouring countries—AFBC(2)¹, completed its work on 8 December 1989.

The Conference opened on 13 November at the Geneva International Conference Centre—CICG (see the *Telecommunication Journal*, January 1990, pages 4-5). It was attended by over 175 delegates from 49 countries, including one observer (Israel), and representatives of five regional and international organizations: the European Broadcasting Union (EBU), the Arab States Broadcasting Union (ASBU), the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural

Organization (UNESCO), the International Amateur Radio Union (IARU) and the Gulf Cooperation Council.

The Conference was chaired by Mr C. T. N'Diongue (Senegal), assisted by four Vice-Chairmen: Messrs A. A. Fahd (Saudi Arabia), I. J. Yombiyeni (Gabon), A. Bahreinian (Islamic Republic of Iran) and W. M. Kilonzo (Kenya).

Six Committees and a Working Group of the Plenary were set up. Several sub-groups were also established to solve specific issues.²

The Agreement and its Plan

After intense bilateral and multilateral negotiations which produced seven different draft Plans, an Agreement was concluded on 8 December. Annexed to the Regional Agreement is the Plan containing the frequency assignments of 10 285 stations, an Appendix containing

¹ The neighbouring countries are: Saudi Arabia, Bahrain, United Arab Emirates, Islamic Republic of Iran, Iraq, Kuwait, Oman, Qatar, Yemen Arab Republic and that part of the People's Democratic Republic of Yemen located outside the African broadcasting

² For the structure of the Conference, see the *Telecommunication Journal*, January 1990, pages 4-5. The Vice-Chairman of Committee 6 was Mr D. Dlamini (Swaziland), and not Mr J. Seleka (Tanzania).

Union Activities

the assignments of 116 stations and annexes containing technical data. It will come into force at 00h01 UTC (co-ordinated universal time) on 1 July 1992 and will remain in force until a revision is decided upon in accordance with the provisions of the International Telecommunication Convention on the convening of a regional conference.

Thus in 1992, all television stations³ in service whose assignments are not entered in the Plan (or its Appendix), or are not in conformity with it, will have to cease transmissions until the necessary modifications have been made and the administrations concerned have given their agreement in accordance with the procedure described in Article 4 of the Agreement just concluded.

The assignments in the Appendix are those which still involved incompatibilities when the Conference ended. Negotiations between the administrations concerned are to continue in the coming months and years; assignments on

which agreement is reached during those negotiations will be deleted from the Appendix and entered in the Plan itself. The assignments in the Appendix may, however, continue to be used until 1 July 1997 (exceptionally 1 January 1999) provided they do not cause interference to the stations in the Plan. On those dates, the Appendix will be eliminated.

The Plan covers the following frequency bands:

- 47-68 MHz⁴;
- 174-230 MHz;
- 230-238 MHz and 246-254 MHz for the following countries: Botswana, Lesotho, Namibia, South Africa, Swaziland and Zambia;
- 470-862 MHz for the stations of countries in the planning area, i.e. the African broadcasting area (area between 30° parallel North and 40° parallel South and certain islands identified in Nos. 402 and 403 of the Radio Regulations) and the area

made up of the ten neighbouring countries.

In addition to the Plan, the Agreement has 11 articles, four annexes, five resolutions and six recommendations (see box for the plan of the Agreement).

The IFRB ensured that the requirements submitted by administrations in the planning area, not present at the Conference, received equitable treatment in relation to the requirements of administrations present, and acted, to some extent, as an intermediary between the Planning Committee and the administrations concerned. Where an absent administration had not submitted any requirements, the Board included requirements based on the Master International Frequency Register (MIFR) or the Geneva 1963 Agreement as appropriate.

The AF+ Regional Conference

A short regional conference held on 4 and 5 December was attended by 93 delegates from 35 countries of the African broadcasting area. It elected Mr A. Toumi (Morocco) as its Chairman. The purpose of this Conference was to abrogate those parts of the 1963 Agreement relating to television which were still in force. The Final Acts of the Conference are to come into force on the same day as those of the AFBC Conference. When it comes into force, the 1989 Plan will replace the 1963 Plan with regard to television. It will be recalled that the part of the 1963 Plan relating to sound broadcasting was already replaced by the 1984 Broadcasting Plan.⁵



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The AFBC(2) Conference: view of the room and of the rostrum

³ With the exception of those in service in accordance with No. 342 of the Radio Regulations.

⁴ 54-68 MHz by Botswana, Burundi, Lesotho, Malawi, Namibia, Rwanda, South Africa, Swaziland, Zaire, Zambia and Zimbabwe.

⁵ Huet M.: Results of the Regional Administrative Conference for the planning of VHF sound broadcasting (Region 1 and part of Region 3), *Telecommunication Journal*, May 1985, pages 290-297.

General structure of the Agreement

Article 1: Definitions
 Article 2: Execution of the Agreement
 Article 3: Annexes to the Agreement
 Article 4: Procedure concerning modifications to the Plan
 Article 5: Notification of frequency assignments
 Article 6: Accession to the Agreement
 Article 7: Scope of application of the Agreement
 Article 8: Approval of the Agreement
 Article 9: Denunciation of the Agreement
 Article 10: Revision of the Agreement
 Article 11: Entry into force and duration of the Agreement

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Annex 1
 The Plan

Annex 2
 Technical data—Chapters 1 to 5

Annex 3
 Basic characteristics of television stations to be submitted for modification to the Plan in accordance with Article 4 of the Agreement

Annex 4
 Limits for determining when co-ordination with another assignment is required as a result of a proposed modification to the Plan—Chapters 1 to 7

Annex 5
 Additional technical data which may be used for co-ordination between administrations

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Resolution No. COM 5/1

This Resolution concerns certain assignments of Botswana, Lesotho, Namibia, South Africa, Swaziland and Zambia in the bands 223-238 and 246-254 MHz which have provisionally been included in the Plan. Number 635 of the Radio Regulations makes the use of these assignments by the broadcasting service subject to the agreement of the administrations concerned under the procedure set forth in Article 14. Once the procedure has been successfully applied, the assignments will be definitively included in the Plan.

Resolution No. COM 5/2

In accordance with this Resolution, all modifications made to the Plan after the end of the Conference and prior to the entry into force of the Agreement will be dealt with in accordance with the procedure described in Articles 4 and 5 of the Agreement and the corresponding annexes.

Resolution No. COM 5/3

Interim procedure to be applied after the Conference for assignments in the Appendix. This procedure will serve as a guide for administrations in their negotiations for the resolution of incompatibilities.

Resolution No. COM 5/4

Conformity with the Plan of existing assignments to stations, i.e. those assignments which have already been notified to the IFRB and have been entered in the MIFR. The IFRB will inform all administrations, one year before the entry into force of the Agreement, of all their assignments to stations which are not in conformity with the Plan so that the necessary changes can be made by 1 July 1992.

Resolution No. COM 5/5

Incompatibilities between the Plan and the existing primary services other than television broadcasting (fixed, mobile, radionavigation or aeronautical radionavigation services). The IFRB will study incompatibilities between the Plan and the assignments received for recording in the Register prior to 13 November 1989. The results will be sent to administrations before 31 December 1990 to enable them to take the necessary steps to minimize the likelihood of interference between such stations and stations in the Plan.

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Recommendation No. GT-PLN/A

Compatibility between broadcasting (television) stations and the fixed service in certain bands. This Recommendation lays down the parameters for the protection of the fixed service.

Recommendation No. GT-PLN/B

Continuation of propagation studies by the CCIR relevant to the use of the VHF/UHF bands in the planning area.

Recommendation No. COM 5/A

Use of some of the planned bands by the radio astronomy, amateur, radionavigation or aeronautical radionavigation services.

Recommendation No. COM 5/B

Conformity with the Plan of existing assignments to television broadcasting stations at the time of the entry into force of the Plan scheduled for 1 July 1992.

Recommendation No. COM 5/C

Incompatibilities between the Plan and the existing primary services other than television broadcasting which use the same frequency bands.

Recommendation No. COM 5/D

Mutual and reciprocal co-ordination between countries in the planning area and countries outside the planning area.