



Journal Title: ITU News

Journal Issue: no. 10, 2007

Article Title: Decisions from RA-07 and WRC-07 will speed up response to disasters

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Page number(s): pp 19-20

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(ITU) للاتصالات الدولي الاتحاد في والمحفوظات المكتبة قسم أجراه الضوئي بالمسح تصوير نتاج (PDF) الإلكترونية النسخة هذه والمحفوظات المكتبة قسم في المتوفرة الوثائق ضمن أصلية ورقية وثيقة من نقلاً.

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Decisions from RA-07 and WRC-07 will speed up response to disasters

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Significant measures to speed up responses to natural disasters were taken at the Radiocommunication Assembly (RA-07) and the World Radiocommunication Conference (WRC-07), held in Geneva in October and November 2007. The two meetings adopted resolutions which pave the way for the implementation of practical measures to facilitate humanitarian assistance at the very early stages of emergency and disaster relief operations.

World Radiocommunication Conference

In adopting Resolution COM6/2 (WRC-07) submitted jointly by Canada and New Zealand, the conference recognized that it is crucial to make immediately available pre-identified and pre-coordinated frequencies, and/or operation-flexible technologies, to allow near-instantaneous decisions on the use of available radio-frequency spectrum.

In times of disaster, radiocommunication facilities may be destroyed or impaired, and national regulatory authorities might not be able to provide the necessary spectrum management services for the deployment of radio systems for relief operations. Recognizing this, WRC-07 specified that efforts

are needed to assist ITU Member States with their emergency communication preparedness. Such efforts include promoting interoperability through the identification of individual administrations' available frequencies within which equipment can operate, or the use of spectrum-flexible equipment that allows for operation in variable spectrum-access scenarios. The conference also agreed that the development of standard operating procedures for spectrum management in the event of disasters would improve both communication and coordination among humanitarian agencies that are part of the initial response teams.

ITU to establish a database of available frequencies for use in emergencies

A significant milestone was reached as the ITU Radiocommunication Bureau promised to provide such assistance by establishing a database of available frequencies for use in emergencies. In accordance with Resolution COM6/2, the Bureau was instructed to facilitate online access to the database by administrations, national regulatory authorities, and disaster relief agencies and organizations. In turn, administrations were urged to provide up-to-date information concerning their national frequency allocations and



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spectrum management practices for emergency and disaster relief radiocommunications. The submission of information by administrations will be strictly on a voluntary basis, and can include, but is not limited to, the frequencies and frequency ranges listed in Resolution 646 (WRC-03) on public protection and disaster relief.

In addition, the conference agreed to maintain Resolution 646 (WRC-03) and to modify Resolution 644 on radiocommunication resources for early warning, disaster mitigation and relief operations. On a related matter, it also adopted Resolution COM6/23 (WRC-07), which underlines the essential nature of Earth observation data for monitoring and predicting climate change in disaster situations. ITU's Radiocommunication Sector (ITU-R) is invited to study possible means of raising awareness of the essential role and global importance of Earth observation radiocommunication applications.

Radiocommunication Assembly

RA-07 adopted two new resolutions in the area of disaster relief operations: Resolution ITU-R 55 and Resolution ITU-R 53. The former focuses on the development

of spectrum management guidelines and standard operating procedures applicable in emergency and disaster relief operations, taking into account the breadth of ongoing studies and activities in the ITU-R study groups. In both resolutions the need for close cooperation and collaboration is explicitly recognized, not only within ITU, but also with other international organizations, such as the Working Group on Emergency Telecommunications (WGET) of the United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA).

More to be done

Even though the critical importance of telecommunications in support of relief operations is well recognized by the United Nations and its Member States, work still needs to be done to ensure reliable communications in support of disaster relief operations. In particular, methods to achieve improved communications within the first 48 hours of a major disaster need urgent attention. The adoption of Resolution COM6/2 (WRC-07) represents an important and significant step in addressing this issue. **/**