AGENDA ITEM 1.5: to consider worldwide/regional harmonization of spectrum for electronic news gathering (ENG), taking into account the results of ITU-R studies, in accordance with Resolution 954 (WRC-07)

ISSUE: To review the needs of ENG systems, to decide if harmonization is possible, and in what potential bands such harmonization is appropriate. This issue may also lead to requests from administrations for consideration of additional spectrum allocations.

BACKGROUND: The issue of spectrum for ENG applications has been a long-standing issue within the ITU and has been prominent for several WRC study cycles. WRC-07 decided to include an agenda item that would look at possible global/regional harmonization. The need for global/regional harmonization must also take into account advances in technology, which may account for operations that are more efficient.

There are several different broadcasting services, which operate under the umbrella of ENG and each will have its own unique requirements for harmonization based on deployment, technical parameters, and user density.

U.S. VIEW: The United States supports reviewing the requirements developed in WP 6A to determine if harmonization is feasible on a regional/global basis for ENG systems. The United States supports studies on technologies that maximize efficient and flexible use of frequencies at the national level in lieu of global/regional identification of frequency bands. If such harmonization is required and feasible, the United States supports focusing on studying the impact of identifying in the RR harmonized spectrum for ENG systems. Such identification should focus on bands where ENG systems have already been identified in ITU-R recommendations in the fixed and mobile services to determine which are appropriate, given the needs of the differing ENG systems (covered by this agenda item and Resolution 954 (WRC-07)) while protecting existing services. (August 7, 2008)