UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

PRELIMINARY VIEWS ON WRC-11

AGENDA ITEM 1.17: to consider the results of sharing studies between the mobile service and other services in the band 790-862 MHz in Regions 1 and 3, in accordance with Resolution 749 (WRC-07), to ensure the adequate protection of services to which the frequency band is allocated, and to take regulatory actions as appropriate.

BACKGROUND:

The transition to digital television is underway in many countries worldwide. The eventual global transition to digital television will make valuable spectrum available for introduction of the next generation wireless services. In the United States, for example, legislation was signed into law requiring all TV broadcasters to switch from analog to digital transmissions by a certain date in 2009. All television stations operating on TV channels 52-69 are required to vacate this spectrum as part of the transition from analog to digital television. This legislation became the catalyst that opened up this spectrum for other uses, including spectrum for commercial mobile systems and for public safety agencies to implement 700 MHz voice and data communications systems. It is important to ensure that possible regulatory solutions developed under WRC-11 Agenda Item 1.17 do not preclude some countries or regions from opportunities to benefit from this transition and, also facilitate global roaming, reduce equipment cost, etc.

At WRC-07, footnotes 5.314, 5.316, 5.316A, 5.316B, and 5.317A that pertain to the band 790-862 MHz were either modified or included in the Table of Frequency Allocations. In Region 1 the 790-862 MHz band was allocated to the mobile service on a primary basis and identified for IMT effective in 2015. In addition, more than 70 countries in Region 1 identified the band for IMT effective immediately. In Region 3, where the band was already allocated to the mobile service on a primary basis, a number of countries also identified it for IMT. While unrelated to WRC-11 Agenda Item 1.17, it is worth noting that WRC-07 also allocated the band 698-806 MHz to the mobile service on a primary basis in Region 2 and identified it for IMT.

No. 5.317A states:

5.317A Those parts of the band 698-960 MHz in Region 2 and the band 790-960 MHz in Regions 1 and 3 which are allocated to the mobile service on a primary basis are identified for use by administrations wishing to implement International Mobile Telecommunications (IMT) See Resolution 224 (Rev.WRC-07) and Resolution 749 (WRC-07). This identification does not preclude the use of these bands by any application of the services to which they are allocated and does not establish priority in the Radio Regulations. (WRC-07)

The GE06 Agreement that contains a plan for digital TV covering frequencies including the 790-862 MHz band in Region 1 and one country in Region 3. The GE06 Agreement also contains provisions for the coexistence between the terrestrial broadcasting service and other terrestrial services, as well as the list of other primary terrestrial services.

Since the sharing studies called for under Agenda Item 1.17 between the mobile service and the other services that are allocated on a primary basis in the 790-862 MHz band were not completed prior to WRC-07, these are called for under Agenda Item 1.17 and are being conducted within the purview of Joint Task Group (JTG) 5-6.
JTG 5-6 will conduct sharing studies on the protection of the services to which the band 790-862 MHz is currently allocated. The studies will include adjacent channel interference. JTG 5-6 will liaise the results of the studies to the relevant ITU-R Working Parties with the view that these Working Parties can develop ITU-R Recommendations and/or Reports, as appropriate, noting that JTG 5-6 will not develop ITU-R Recommendations.

ISSUES:
The main issue is to avoid impact on Region 2 services in 790-862 MHz. Although this Agenda Item focuses on Regions 1 and 3, the results of the sharing studies called for could impact on services within the United States or its territories in terms of 1) cross-border frequency use by administrations in Regions 1 and 3 and/or 2) precedents established by using methodologies or characteristics in the studies.

PRELIMINARY VIEWS:

U.S. VIEW: The scope of the WRC-11 Agenda Item 1.17 studies is limited to terrestrial services only in Regions 1 and 3 and only in the band 790-862 MHz. The United States is of the view that, there are no bases for any changes to the Radio Regulations pertaining to terrestrial services in the band 790-862 MHz in Region 2. Consequently, the United States is opposed to any proposals to modify Radio Regulations for Region 2 services in the band 790-862 MHz. The U.S. also seeks to avoid undue constraints that may impede worldwide introduction of new telecommunications services in the band 790-862 MHz.