

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA
DRAFT PROPOSALS FOR THE WORK OF THE CONFERENCE

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)*

Background Information: WRC-07 established Resolution 954 (WRC-07), which “invites ITU-R to carry out studies of ENG regarding possible solutions for global/regional harmonization in frequency bands and tuning ranges, taking into account: available technologies to maximize efficient and flexible use of frequency; system characteristics and operational practices which facilitate the implementation of these solutions.” Resolution 954 (WRC-07) calls for studies to determine to what extent harmonization of spectrum can be achieved for ENG services.

The contents of Report ITU-R BT.2069 make it clear that four distinct categories of ENG applications exist in support of the broadcasting service.¹ The harmonization and rationalization of spectrum for each of these applications should be considered separately, as their spectrum requirements are distinctly different, and the potential for spectrum re-use is also distinctly unique.

Spectrum harmonization provides many benefits but may not be feasible given the disparate use of spectrum by the many countries and the differing broadcasting standards in use in the three ITU Regions. Instead, a mechanism for spectrum rationalization may be more productive in allowing foreign broadcaster’s knowledge of and access to, the needed spectrum in a given country/region to ensure that international news-worthy events can be covered.

Proposal:

ADD USA/AI 1.5/1

DRAFT RESOLUTION [USA-1.5-ENG] (WRC-11)

Spectrum Management Guidelines for Electronic News Gathering (ENG)²

The World Radiocommunication Conference (Geneva, 2011),

considering

that some administrations may have different operational needs and spectrum requirements for electronic news gathering, depending on the circumstances;

recognizing

¹ The four categories of applications (Field Use, Field Transmission, Fleet Transmission, and Mobile Repeaters) are a generalization of the specific applications found in Section 3.1 on page 5 of Report ITU-R BT.2069-1.

² For the purpose of this Resolution, ENG represents all applications ancillary to broadcasting, such as terrestrial electronic news gathering, electronic field production, TV outside broadcasting, wireless radio microphones, and radio outside production and broadcast.

- a) that broadcasting ancillary services can be utilized as part of an administration's telecommunications/information and communication technologies (ICTs) systems in service of management in emergency and disaster situations for early warning, prevention, mitigation, and relief;
- b) that Recommendation ITU-R M.1824 provides system characteristics of television outside broadcast, electronic news gathering (ENG) and electronic field production (EFP) in the mobile service for use in sharing studies;
- c) that Recommendation ITU-R F.1777 provides system characteristics of television outside broadcast, electronic news gathering and electronic field production in the fixed service for use in sharing studies;
- d) that Report ITU-R BT.2069 provides spectrum usage and operational characteristics of terrestrial ENG, television outside broadcast (TVOB) and EFP systems,

noting

- a) that when an international news-worthy event happens, broadcasters often have little to no lead time in which to prepare for deployment;
- b) that there is a critical requirement to perform immediate spectrum management actions, including frequency coordination, sharing and spectrum reuse, within an administration where an international news-worthy event takes place;
- c) that the identification of frequency availability within individual administrations within which equipment could operate, or the use of spectrum-flexible equipment that allows for operation in various spectrum access scenarios, may ease the interoperability and/or networking, with mutual cooperation and consultation, especially in international news-worthy events that draw broadcasters regionally or globally,

noting further

that it is in the interest of administrations and their broadcasters to have access to updated information on national spectrum planning for ENG use,

resolves

- 1 to encourage administrations to consider global and/or regional frequency bands/ranges for ENG when undertaking their national planning and to communicate this information to the broadcasting community;
- 2 to encourage and assist the broadcasting community in developing a database of available frequencies, technical and operational requirements, and spectrum authorization points of contact as appropriate for global usage of ENG systems,

instructs the Director of the Radiocommunication Bureau

1 to assist the broadcasting community in coordinating their ENG usage for regional/global international news-worthy events by maintaining a link on the ITU-R website to a community database of currently available ENG frequencies, ENG technical and operational requirements, and spectrum authorization points of contact as appropriate;

2 to report on the progress on this Resolution to subsequent World Radiocommunication Conferences,

urges administrations

1 to provide the broadcasting community with the relevant information concerning their national ENG frequency allocations, ENG spectrum management practices, and appropriate governmental points-of-contact for ENG usage within their administration;

2 to assist the broadcasting community in keeping the database up to date on an ongoing basis by notifying the broadcasting community of any modifications to the information requested above.

Reasons: Information on ENG usage around the world, which the broadcasters can maintain in a database, would enable broadcasters to obtain access as necessary. Resolution [USA-1.5-ENG] provides a mechanism to rationalize ENG spectrum usage by maintaining a database of country specific ENG bands with required technical and operational requirements for deployment. This will provide foreign newscasters with the needed information to ensure that they deploy with equipment that will operate within a given country and allow broadcasters to seek approval for spectrum use. It will also provide manufacturers with a knowledge base of required spectrum parameters that will enable them to build common-use equipment that will leverage economies-of-scale for the worldwide ENG market.