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ITU-APT Foundation of India (IAFI1)

COMPENDIUM OF ITU'S WORK AND FUTURE ITU-R WORK ON EMERGENCY TELECOMMUNICATIONS

Background

ITU's [Compendium of ITU's work on Emergency Telecommunications](#), was published in 2007 and is significantly out of date at present. During the last Working Party (WP) 5A meeting, it was agreed that this Compendium document on Emergency Telecommunications should be suppressed as it would require an extensive effort to rewrite.

Discussions

The need to provide up-to-date, concise and easily available information on the topic of emergency communications is well recognized. Although the ITU [website](#) already contains a number of important ITU-R updated references on emergency communications, it is critical to have some compilation of ITU-R information on emergency communications, easily available. A number of countries, particularly the developing countries in Asia, are being regularly impacted by various natural as well as man-made emergency and disaster situations, such as volcanic eruptions, tsunamis, and earthquakes, pandemics, floods, etc.

Resolution **647 (Rev.WRC-19)** relating to the radiocommunication aspects of early warning, disaster prediction, detection, mitigation and relief operations relating to emergencies and disasters has instructed the Director of the Radiocommunication Bureau:

- 1 *to support administrations in their work towards the implementation of Resolution 136 (Rev.WRC-19), as well as the Tampere Convention;*
- 2 *to coordinate activities between this Resolution and Resolution 646 (Rev.WRC-19) in order to minimize possible overlap;*
- 3 *to continue to assist Member States with their emergency communication preparedness activities by maintaining the database² of information from administrations for use in emergency situations, which includes contact information and optionally includes available frequencies;*

¹ ITU-APT Foundation of India is sector member of ITU-R. For details, please see <https://itu-apt.org>

² <http://itu.int/go/ITU-R/emergency>

- 4 *to facilitate online access to the database by administrations, national regulatory authorities, disaster-relief agencies and organizations, in particular the United Nations Emergency Relief Coordinator, in accordance with the operating procedures developed for disaster situations;*
- 5 *to collaborate with the United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs and other organizations, as appropriate, in the development and dissemination of standard operating procedures and relevant spectrum-management practices for use in the event of a disaster situation;*
- 6 *to collaborate, as appropriate, with the United Nations Working Group on Emergency Telecommunications (WGET) and the radio frequency and radio standards group under the UN Emergency Telecommunications Cluster (ETC) for which the World Food Programme (WFP) is the cluster lead;*
- 7 *to take into consideration, and collaborate in, as appropriate, all relevant activities in ITU's other two Sectors and General Secretariat;*
- 8 *to report on progress on this Resolution to subsequent world radiocommunication conferences, invites the ITU Radiocommunication Sector*

We believe that the ITU-R webpage on Emergency communications and the ITU-R data base provides the information required under Resolution **647(Rev. WRC-19)**.

Further, Resolution ITU-R 55-3 (2019) on "ITU-R studies of disaster prediction, detection, mitigation and relief" emphasized that: *ITU-R study groups have an important role in disaster management through their technical and operational studies and recommendations that support disaster prediction, detection, mitigation and response activities which are critical for minimizing loss of life and property and for providing relief to disaster-affected areas.*

Resolution ITU-R 55-3 (2019) also calls upon "*the concerned ITU-R Study Groups undertake studies and develop guidelines related to the management of radiocommunications in disaster prediction, detection, mitigation and relief collaboratively and cooperatively within ITU and with organizations external to the Union; and that the relevant ITU-R Study Groups continue studies on new emerging technologies which could support disaster prediction, detection, mitigation and relief*".

Many countries in the world have experienced numerous fatal incidents of emergency situations in the past. These disasters had been aggravated by untimely and inadequate alerting mechanism and disaster relief management guidelines. The requirements for concise and summary information of all available radio communications resources are critical to the provision of high-quality radio links, enabling the transmission of on-site life exposures by voice, data and video, to the affected areas, for:

- the population prone to the looming danger involving their lives, for split second determinations on their timely evacuation and the related safety measures;
- the responsible headquarters and disaster centres in responding timely relief measures to minimize victims and remedy the aftereffects of a disaster.

Proposal

While the need to suppress the ITU's [Compendium of ITU's work on Emergency Telecommunications](#) is recognized, it is essential that a compilation of all the related information in an ITU-R report on this subject. Further, the need for a possible handbook on emergency radiocommunications should be considered, particularly keeping in view Resolution 55 (ITU-R) mandate that *ITU-R Study Groups continue studies on new emerging technologies which could support disaster prediction, detection, mitigation and relief.*
