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**WRC 2003 Advisory Committee
IWG-6
Draft Proposal for Progressing Work on WRC 03 Agenda Item 1.3**

Agenda Item 1.3 – *to consider identification of globally/regionally harmonized bands, to the extent practicable, for the implementation of future advanced solutions to meet the needs of public protection agencies, including those dealing with emergency situations and disaster relief, and to make regulatory provisions, as necessary, taking into account Resolution 645 (WRC-2000).*

Background – WRC-2000 considered the growing telecommunications needs of public protection and disaster relief agencies for future advanced solutions employing high data rates, video and multimedia technologies, and the need for interoperability among service providers dealing with emergency situations and disaster relief in developing Resolution 645.¹ In recognition of the importance of such growing national needs to the maintenance of law and order and the protection of life and property, WRC-2000 resolved to consider the identification of globally/regionally harmonized bands for advanced solutions for Public Protection and Disaster Relief (PPDR) at WRC-2003 (WRC-03) and to make regulatory provisions, as necessary.

ITU-R Working Party 8A (WP-8A) was designated as having responsibility to undertake appropriate studies related to public protection and disaster relief and report the results of these studies to WRC-03. A questionnaire was developed and addressed to Members and Sector Members of ITU-R (Circular Letter 8/LCCE/83 dated Nov. 20, 2000) in order to assess the current activities, future plans and intentions with regard to public protection and disaster relief communications. A Work Plan for studies on public protection and disaster relief was also approved (Doc. 8A/TEMP/012 Rev 1). The questionnaire viewed the development of public protection and disaster relief communications in the context of narrowband, wideband and broadband technologies (PPDR). At an interim meeting of WP-8A Working Group 3 (WP-8A3), held from April 2-6, 2001 in Goa, India, the responses to the questionnaire from 37 Administrations, four Sector Members and two international groups were analyzed indicating that most national PPDR communications at present are dependent upon the use of narrowband analog technologies with a trend toward the introduction of narrowband digital technologies. The individual responses of Administrations were focused almost exclusively on assessment of national PPDR requirements and identified existing domestic allocations for PPDR uses, noting that a degree of regional harmonization already exists for narrowband PPDR.

¹ Resolution 645 recommends that WRC 2003 consider the identification of globally/regionally harmonized bands for public protection and disaster relief.

At the October 2001 WP-8A meeting, a number of Working Documents were prepared for consideration at the February 2002 interim meeting of WP-8A3. They included a Working Document on user requirements and applications for PPDR communications (Doc.8A/TEMP/64), while another was a working document towards a PDNR titled “Global Cross-Border Circulation of Radiocommunication Equipment” (Doc.8A/TEMP/51). The methodology for calculating spectrum requirements for PPDR was further analyzed. As a result, a third working document (Doc.8A/TEMP/50) was created which describes the methodology and identifies the steps required in order to complete the studies related to the calculation of PPDR spectrum requirements. A fourth working document was prepared that lists potential PPDR candidate bands for consideration by WRC-03, including initial summaries of the particular advantages and disadvantages of each band (Doc. 8A/TEMP/62). Finally, a working document was prepared proposing CPM text for Chapter 2 of the draft CPM Report (Doc.8A/TEMP/33). The deadline for completion of the Draft CPM Report was May 31, 2002.

Despite these various working documents, the underlying requirement for global or regional PPDR spectrum harmonization has not yet been adequately addressed within WP 8A. These studies do not address the issue of domestic requirements for additional spectrum for public protection or disaster relief. In fact, there has been little support from internationally oriented public safety or disaster relief organizations for such regional or global harmonized spectrum, and there has been significant questioning of the need for, and concerns raised regarding possible regulatory restrictions that may result from, designation of spectrum for PPDR. These concerns, raised by the United Nations and the International Red Cross, are being addressed in WP-8A. Concerns raised by the US Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) and the U.S. Department of Justice are also still being addressed.

If, however, after thorough examination, it is found that globally or regionally harmonized spectrum is desirable, identification of this spectrum should be in the form of either a WRC-03 Resolution or Recommendation, rather than in the Radio Regulations. As a result, the United States proposes the following:

USA/1.3/1

NOC

ARTICLE 5

Frequency allocations

Reasons: At this point in time, there has been little support from internationally oriented public safety or disaster relief organizations for regional or global harmonized spectrum. Moreover, there has been significant questioning of the need for, and concerns raised regarding possible regulatory restrictions that may result from, international designation of spectrum for Public Protection or Disaster Relief in the Radio Regulations. Therefore, in order to avoid any potential constraints on the ability of individual administrations to use spectrum in which they currently operate, it is appropriate not to make changes to Article 5 of the Radio Regulations.