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**COMMITTEE 6**

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PROPOSED REVISION TO DECISION 12 (REV. GUADALAJARA, 2010)

MOD COM6/22/1

DECISION 12 (~~GUADALAJARA, 2010~~REV. BUSAN, 2014)

**Free online access to ITU publications**

The Plenipotentiary Conference of the International Telecommunication Union  
(~~Guadalajara, 2010~~Busan, 2014),

*considering*

- a) that Article 4 of the ITU Constitution defines the Administrative Regulations (i.e. the International Telecommunication Regulations and the Radio Regulations) as instruments of the Union, and that Member States are bound to abide by the provisions of those texts;
- b) Resolution 123 (Rev. ~~Guadalajara, 2010~~ Busan, 2014) of this conference, on bridging the standardization gap between developing<sup>1</sup> and developed countries, which recognizes that the implementation of recommendations of the ITU Radiocommunication Sector (ITU-R) and the ITU Telecommunication Standardization Sector (ITU-T) is a basic step towards bridging the standardization gap between developed and developing countries;
- c) Resolution 64 (Rev. ~~Guadalajara, 2010~~ Busan, 2014) of this conference, and Resolution 20 (Rev. Hyderabad, 2010) of the World Telecommunication Development Conference (WTDC), on non-discriminatory access to modern telecommunication/information and communication technology (ICT) facilities and services, which notes that:
  - modern telecommunication/ICT facilities and services are established, in the main, on the basis of ITU-R and ITU-T recommendations;
  - ITU-R and ITU-T recommendations are the result of the collective efforts of all those taking part in the standardization process within ITU and are adopted by consensus by the members of the Union;
  - limitations on the access to telecommunication/ICT facilities and services on which national telecommunication/ICT development depends and which are established on the basis of ITU-R and ITU-T recommendations constitute an obstacle to the harmonious development and compatibility of telecommunications/ICTs worldwide;
- d) Resolution 9 (Rev. ~~Hyderabad, 2010~~ Dubai, 2014) of WTDC, on the participation of countries, particularly developing countries, in spectrum management, which recognizes the importance of facilitating access to radiocommunication-related documentation in order to facilitate the task of radio-frequency spectrum managers;
- e) Resolution 34 (Rev. Dubai, 2014) of WTDC, on the role of telecommunications/ICTs in disaster preparedness, early warning, rescue, mitigation, relief and response, which notes the importance for humankind of ITU publications relating to this area of activity;

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<sup>1</sup> These include the least developed countries, small island developing states, landlocked developing countries and countries with economies in transition.

*ef)* Resolution 47 (Rev. ~~Hyderabad, 2010~~ Dubai, 2014) of WTDC, on enhancement of knowledge and effective application of ITU recommendations in developing countries, which resolved to invite Member States and Sector Members to engage in activities to enhance knowledge and effective application of ITU-T and ITU-R recommendations in developing countries;

*g)* Council Decision 571 (2014) on free online access to the Administrative Regulations, Council resolutions and decisions and other publications of the Union;

*h)* Council Decision 574 (2013) on free online access to the Final Reports of World Telecommunication Development Conferences;

*i)* Council Decisions 542 (2006), which approved free online access to ITU-T recommendations to the general public on a trial basis, later confirmed permanent by Decision 12 (Guadalajara, 2010);

*j)* that, according to Document C13/81, during the open free online access trial period, income from sales of the Radio Regulations in paper and DVD format in 2012 increased by more than 60 per cent compared with sales in all formats (including online purchases) during the same time interval in 2008 – the year when the previous edition of the Radio Regulations was published;

*k)* that free online access to the Radio Regulations for the general public as indicated in Documents C13/21, C13/81 and C14/21 had no negative financial impact in 2012 and 2013;

*l)* the provisions of the WSIS+10 Statement on the implementation of WSIS outcomes and the WSIS+10 Vision for WSIS beyond 2015, adopted at the WSIS+10 High-Level Event, relating to the importance of free access to international standards, which enhance the efficiency of use of telecommunications/ICTs in various areas of human activity, including further development of the information society;

*mf)* that free access to the basic texts of the Union helps to fulfil the core purposes of the Union, as defined in Article 1 of the Constitution,

*n)* that free online access to the documents related to the Rules of Procedures, Resolutions, Recommendations, and Decisions of the Union has a positive impact to entrench the principles of transparency and checks and balances that the Union works within its framework,

*recognizing*

*a)* the difficulty faced by many countries, particularly developing countries, in participating in the activities of ITU-R, ITU-T and ITU-D study groups;

*b)* the various actions taken by the Council since 2000 to allow ~~some level of~~ free online access to ITU recommendations and to the basic texts of the Union;

*c)* numerous requests made by Member States and Sector Members with respect to free online access to ITU-R and ITU-T recommendations, various ITU handbooks, and to the basic texts of the Union and its Rules of Procedures;

*d)* that, following the approval of ITU Council Decisions 542, 571 and 574, which approved a trial period of free online access to ITU-T recommendations, there was an a considerable increase in downloads of all the publications made free online by those Decisions, of more than 7 000 per cent, according to Document C07/32 as reported annually to Council, raising public interest in the areas and outcomes of ITU's work and facilitated more active participation of different organizations in the work of ITU;

~~e) — that the Council approved, at its 2008 session, a trial period of free online access to ITU-R recommendations and the basic texts of the Union from January 2009 through June 2009;~~

~~ef) that, due to the success in increasing the number of downloads of ITU-R recommendations and the manageable financial implications in respect of the trial period mentioned in *recognizing-d)* above, the Council approved, at its 2009 session, the extension of the free trial period until the 2010 plenipotentiary conference, and postponed the decision on providing free access to ITU-R recommendations to the Plenipotentiary Conference that the financial implications of providing free online access to these publications have been reported as minimal and have been compensated by the increase in the awareness of the work carried out by the Union in all three sectors;~~

~~fg) that the extension of the trial period as a result of the introduction of free online access to ITU-R recommendations until the 2010 plenipotentiary conference, approved by the Council-09 at its 2009 session, and the positive results deriving from that decision indicate that providing free online access to ITU-R recommendations was successful in increasing the quantity number of downloads of these recommendations increased almost threefold between 2008 and 2010, thus and in improving radiocommunication experts' awareness of and participation in the work carried out in ITU-R;~~

~~h) — that the Administrative Regulations, as legally binding instruments discussed and elaborated by the Member States of the Union, may be made available free of charge online,~~

*recognizing further*

a) that there is a general trend towards free online access to ICT-related standards;

b) the strategic need to increase the visibility and availability of ITU outputs;

c) that both of the objectives sought by the trial periods and the policies of free online access to ITU ~~recommendations-publications and the basic texts of the Union~~ have been met, namely: ITU has achieved a great improvement in outreach, and the financial implications for ITU revenues were less than initially forecast;

~~d) — that free online access to the basic texts of the Union has a limited financial impact;~~

~~de) that providing free online access to ITU-R recommendations- publications facilitates awareness and participation of developing countries in the work of ITU-R the Union;~~

~~ef) that, regarding the instruments of ITU that are intended to be incorporated in national law, Member States have *de facto* freedom to reproduce, translate and publish such texts on official government department websites as well as in official journals or equivalent publications, in accordance with their respective national law,~~

*noting*

a) that increased involvement in ITU activities is a fundamental step towards enhanced capacity-building and ICT development potential in developing countries, which will lead to a reduction of the digital divide;

b) that, in order to increase, improve and facilitate the participation of Member States and Sector Members from developing countries in ITU activities, these members need to be capable of interpreting and implementing ITU technical publications, the basic texts of the Union and the instruments of the Union;

c) that an efficient way to ensure that developing countries have access to ITU publications is to provide them free of charge online,

*noting further*

that providing free online access to ITU publications will reduce the demand for paper copies of these documents, which converges with the current ITU trend of soft format and of organizing paperless meetings, and with the overall goal of the United Nations to reduce paper usage and greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions,

*decides*

1 to provide free online access to ITU-R, ITU-T and ITU-D recommendations and ITU-R reports, ITU-R handbooks on radio-frequency spectrum management<sup>2</sup>; ITU publications concerning the use of telecommunications/ICTs for ensuring disaster preparedness, early warning, rescue, mitigation, relief and response, the International Telecommunication Regulations; the Radio Regulations; the Rules of Procedure; the basic texts of the Union (Constitution, Convention and General Rules of conferences, assemblies and meetings of the Union, Decisions, Resolutions and Recommendations) and, the final acts of plenipotentiary conferences}; the final reports of World Telecommunication Development Conferences, the ITU Council Resolutions and Decisions, the final acts of world and regional radiocommunication conferences, as well as of world conferences on international telecommunications to the general public on a permanent basis;

2 that paper copies of all ITU publications listed under decides 1 above ITU-R recommendations, ITU-R reports, the basic texts of the Union and the final acts of plenipotentiary conferences will continue to be charged for on the basis of a two-tier pricing policy, whereby Member States, Sector Members and Associates pay a price based on cost recovery, whereas for all others, i.e., non-members, pay a "market price"<sup>2,3</sup> shall be set;

~~3 to confirm on a permanent basis the current policy on free online access to ITU-T Recommendations;~~

*instructs the Secretary-General*

to prepare a report on an ongoing basis on sales and free downloads of ITU publications ~~(with the exception of the texts listed under decides 1, 2 and 3 above)~~, software and databases, and to present this report annually to the Council, detailing the following aspects:

- total sales and free downloads per year, covering last 5 years beginning 2007;
- comparison between sales and free downloads of paper copies and of electronic copies, per year;
- sales and free downloads by country and by member category;
- ~~– comparison of copies sold and not sold,~~

<sup>2</sup> These include the ITU-R Handbooks on National Spectrum Management, Computer Aided Techniques for Spectrum Management, and Spectrum Monitoring.

<sup>3</sup> The term "market price" is defined as the price determined by the Sales and Marketing Division, which is established to maximize revenues without being so high as to discourage sales.

*instructs the Council*

1—to examine the report of the Secretary-General and to decide on ~~further~~ policies for further improving access to ITU publications, software and databases;

2—to undertake a holistic study on the costs/benefits of providing other texts of the Union, including the Administrative Regulations of the Union, free online.

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