
PLENARY MEETING

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PROPOSALS FOR THE WORK OF THE CONFERENCE

I. Introduction

In the interests of facilitating a successful outcome to the World Conference on International Telecommunications 2012 (WCIT-12), we propose that the conference consider and agree on several fundamental issues concerning the scope of the International Telecommunications Regulations (ITRs) before considering specific proposals for treaty text revisions. We believe this approach will ensure that all proposals to WCIT-12 will be given the careful consideration they deserve.

We propose that WCIT-12 should agree to any changes in the Preamble and Article 1 of the ITRs before advancing to discussions of specific changes to other articles of the ITRs. The Preamble and Article 1 set forth the purpose and scope of the ITRs, and it is essential to agree on these fundamental issues before considering specific proposals to amend provisions of the ITRs. In addition, WCIT-12 should agree whether the ITRs should apply to "Recognized Operating Agencies," "Operating Agencies," or some other category of entities, and whether to revise the definition of "Telecommunications." These are threshold issues that will affect the scope and application of the ITRs, as well as their relationship to the ITU Constitution and Convention.

Agreement on these threshold issues will ensure that there is consensus from the beginning of the conference on how to proceed with revisions to the ITRs, bolstering the likelihood of a successful outcome. In addition, obtaining consensus first on these threshold issues will facilitate more meaningful discussions on the specific proposals to revise the ITRs.

Such an approach will also provide an opportunity for the conference to consider what the impact of discussions in other ITU meetings might be on issues that are before WCIT-12. For example, WCIT-12 could consider the outcomes of the World Telecommunications Standardization Assembly, progress in preparing for the World Telecommunications Policy Forum, the work of the Rapporteur Group on the definition of ICT in the Development Sector, and the Council Working Group on a Stable Constitution and Convention.

We therefore propose that WCIT-12 agree in Plenary first on any changes to the Preamble and Article 1, as well as threshold definitional issues that will affect the scope of the treaty, before considering specific revisions.

II. Proposal

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WCIT-12 should agree in Plenary, before specific proposals to revise the ITRs are considered in the Working Groups of Committee 5, on the scope of the ITRs; specifically, any revisions to the Preamble and Article 1 and whether they apply to “Recognized Operating Agencies,” “Operating Agencies,” or other entities, and whether the definition of “Telecommunications” remains the same or is revised, before it considers specific proposals to revise the ITRs.
