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| APTlogogreen3 | ASIA-PACIFIC TELECOMMUNITY | **Document:** |
| **The 3rd Meeting of the APT Conference Preparatory Group for WRC-19 (APG19-3)** | **APG19-3/OUT-29** |
| 12 – 16 March 2018, Perth, Australia | **16 March 2018** |

Working Party 6

**PRELIMINARY VIEWs on WRC-19 agenda item 8**

**Agenda Item 8:**

*to consider and take appropriate action on requests from administrations to delete their country footnotes or to have their country name deleted from footnotes, if no longer required, taking into account Resolution 26 (Rev.WRC-07).*

**1. Background**

Agenda Item 8 is a standing agenda item of WRCs that requests administrations to review footnotes to the Table of Frequency Allocations and to propose the deletion of their country footnotes or of their country names from footnotes, if no longer required.

Footnotes are an integral part of the Table of Frequency Allocations in the Radio Regulations and, as such, form part of an international treaty text. In order to keep the footnotes to the Table of Frequency Allocations up to date, there should be clear and effective guidelines for additions, modifications and deletions of footnotes. In this connection, any addition, modification or deletion of a footnote should be considered and adopted by a WRC in accordance with Resolution **26 (Rev.WRC-07)**.

This standing WRC agenda item was adopted for the purpose of achieving global harmonization in spectrum use by means of deleting country footnotes or country names from footnotes. However, previous WRCs considered proposals from administrations to add their country names to the existing footnotes under this agenda item. Moreover, the last two WRCs experienced proposals even to add new country footnotes under this agenda item.

The addition of country names to footnotes can carry with it considerable impact to existing allocations and the management of spectrum in other (often neighbouring) countries. It is therefore not a simple matter to add one’s country name to a footnote without detailed consideration of any possible ramification elsewhere and is not within scope of agenda item 8.

WRC-15 considered the proposals for additions under this agenda item subject to the following principles (see [WRC-15 Document 142](https://www.itu.int/md/R15-WRC15-C-0142/en)):

1. It is not the intention of WRC to encourage the addition of country names to existing footnotes. However, under certain circumstances on a purely exceptional basis and if justified, proposals for the addition of country names to existing footnotes can be considered but their acceptance is subject to the express condition that there are no objections from the affected countries.

2. Proposals for the addition of new country footnotes which are not related to agenda items of the Conference should not be considered.

Addition of a country name to the existing footnotes may give the possibility for administrations, when they identify a need, to ask the Conference to add their name to a specific footnote, but also ensures that affected countries may object to the proposal if there is a risk of harmful interference. Moreover, the possibility to add a country name to a footnote may in some cases increase the regional or sub-regional harmonization of frequency utilization. Taking into account the current practice, it may be necessary to include this current practice in Resolution **26(Rev.WRC-07)**.

Conversely, administrations need sufficient time to examine the potential consequences of proposals under agenda item 8 and would benefit from being advised, as early as possible, of which footnotes are proposed to be modified. The existing practice may lead to difficulties for administrations during Conferences, while requiring for proposed changes immediate evaluation of compatibility and determination of sharing conditions with existing services and to agree with these changes. In some cases this cannot be achieved during the conference due to the lack of expertise and time limits. Therefore, proposals under agenda item 8 should be available sufficiently before the Conference for consideration by concerned administrations. One solution could be modification of Resolution **26 (Rev.WRC-07)** in order to request administrations to send their proposals.

**2. Documents**

* Input Documents APG19-3/INP-33(IRN, APG19-3/INP-46(AUS)
* Information Documents APG19-3/INF-06(CEPT)

**3. Summary of discussions**

**3.1 Summary of APT Members’ views**

**3.1.1 Iran** - **Document APG19-3/INP-33**

Iran proposed the following APT Preliminary Views to be adopted by APG2019-3:

1. APT supports that administrations taking the initiative to review their footnotes and to propose the deletion of their country names or the deletion of country footnotes, if no longer required.

2. APT is of the view that this agenda item is not intended for adding country names into existing footnotes and the addition of new country footnotes. Therefore any proposal for the addition of a new country footnote should not be considered under this agenda item. However WRCs may continue to deal with requests to add country names to the existing footnotes on a case by case basis, subject to the principle that there are no objections from the affected countries. This practice should be included in Resolution **26(Rev. WRC-07)** as indicated in Annex 1 to Doc. No. APG19-3/INP-33.

3. APT is of the view that the proposals under agenda item 8 need to be available at a sufficient time before the Conference for consideration by concerned administrations. Therefore it is proposed to modify Resolution **26(Rev. WRC-07)** and request administrations to submit their proposals under this agenda item to the second session of the Conference Preparatory Meeting. The Director of the Radicommunication Bureau would collect these proposals and include in the CPM Report to the Conference (see Annex 1 to Doc. No. APG19-3/INP-33).

* + 1. **Australia - APG 19-3/INP-46**

Resolution **26 (Rev.WRC-07)** *further resolves* 2 states ‘that recommended agendas for future world radiocommunication conferences should include a standing agenda item which would allow for the consideration of proposals by administrations for deletion of country footnotes, or country names in footnotes, if no longer required.’ In this regard Australia supports the principles and intent of the Resolution and standing agenda item 8 for administrations to remove their country names associated with specific footnotes of the Table of Frequency Allocations in Article **5** of the Radio Regulations when no longer required.

Australia does not support the adding of country names to existing footnotes of Table of Frequency Allocations in Article **5** of the Radio Regulations under this agenda item. Resolution **26 (Rev.WRC-07)** clearly defines the process whereby a new footnote or modification of an existing footnote (such as to add a country name) can be undertaken. Administrations are encouraged to follow this process at a world radiocommunication conference as necessary should they wish to modify a footnote to include their country name.

Australia has reviewed the latest edition of the Radio Regulations and presently intends to retain Australia’s name where it has been included in footnotes at previous conferences.

**3.2 Summary of issues raised during the meeting**

**4. APT Preliminary View(s)**

1. APT Members support that administrations taking the initiative to review their footnotes and to propose the deletion of their country names or the deletion of country footnotes, if no longer required.

2. APT Members are of the view that this agenda item is not intended for adding country names into existing footnotes and the addition of new country footnotes. Therefore, any proposal for the addition of a new country footnote should not be considered under this agenda item. However WRCs may continue to deal with requests to add country names to the existing footnotes on a case by case basis, subject to the principle that there are no objections from the affected countries.

3. APT Members are of the view that the proposals under agenda item 8 need to be available at a sufficient time before the Conference for consideration by concerned administrations. Therefore, it is proposed to modify Resolution **26 (Rev. WRC-07)** and request administrations to submit their proposals under this agenda item to the second session of the Conference Preparatory Meeting and invite the CPM to include all of these proposals in CPM Report to the Conference. In this regard, an example for modification to Resolution **26 (Rev. WRC-07)** is provided in Annex 1 to this Document for further consideration by the next APG meeting.

**5. Other View(s) from APT Members**

None.

**6. Issues for Consideration at Next APG Meeting**

APT Members are invited to examine their country footnotes with a view as to whether they are still necessary and relevant and propose the deletion of their country footnotes or country names from footnotes, as appropriate. APT Members may provide this information to APG with a view to preparing a consolidated APT Common Proposal to WRC-19 on Asia-Pacific Administrations proposing removal of their names from country footnotes from Article **5** of the RR.

APT Members are encouraged to consider development of principles to be used by future WRCs in the consideration of proposals from administrations to add their country name to footnotes of the Table of Frequency Allocations separate to standing agenda item 8 similar to that contained in [WRC-15 Document 142](https://www.itu.int/md/R15-WRC15-C-0142/en).

APT Members are encouraged to consider further improvement to the proposed modifications to Resolution **26 (Rev. WRC-07)** as provided in Annex 1 to this document.

**7. Views from Other Organisations**

**CEPT** - **Document APG19-3/INF-06**

CEPT is of the view that there is no need to change the Resolution **26 (Rev. WRC-07)**.

**Issue A – Deletion of country footnotes or country names from footnotes**

• CEPT supports Administrations taking the initiative to review their footnotes and to propose the deletion of their country names or the deletion of country footnotes, if no longer required.

**Issue B – Addition of country names into footnotes or new country footnotes**

• CEPT is of the view that this agenda item is not intended for adding country names into footnotes and the addition of new country footnotes.

• CEPT is of the view that Conferences may continue to deal with requests to add country names to existing footnotes on a case by case basis, subject to the principle that proposals for the addition of country names to existing footnotes can be considered but their acceptance is subject to the express condition that there are no objections from the affected countries.

• Furthermore CEPT is of the view that proposals for the addition of new country footnotes which are not related to agenda items of this Conference should not be considered.

**ANNEX 1**

**MOD**

RESOLUTION 26 (Rev.WRC-19)

Footnotes to the Table of Frequency Allocations in Article 5 of   
the Radio Regulations

The World Radiocommunication Conference (Geneva, 2007),

considering

*a)* that footnotes are an integral part of the Table of Frequency Allocations in the Radio Regulations and, as such, form part of an international treaty text;

*b)* that footnotes to the Table of Frequency Allocations should be clear, concise and easy to understand;

*c)* that footnotes should relate directly to matters of frequency allocation;

*d)* that, in order to ensure that footnotes allow modification of the Table of Frequency Allocations without introducing unnecessary complications, principles relating to the use of footnotes are needed;

*e)* that, currently, footnotes are adopted by competent world radiocommunication conferences and any addition, modification or deletion of a footnote is considered and adopted by the competent conference;

*f)* that some problems concerning country footnotes may be resolved through the application of a special agreement envisaged by Article **6**;

*g)* that, in certain cases, administrations are confronted with major difficulties due to inconsistencies or omissions in footnotes;

*h)* that, in order to keep the footnotes to the Table of Frequency Allocations up to date, there should be clear and effective guidelines for additions, modifications and deletions of footnotes,

resolves

1 that, wherever possible, footnotes to the Table of Frequency Allocations should be confined to altering, limiting or otherwise changing the relevant allocations rather than dealing with the operation of stations, assignment of frequencies or other matters;

2 that the Table of Frequency Allocations should include only those footnotes which have international implications for the use of the radio-frequency spectrum;

3 that new footnotes to the Table of Frequency Allocations should only be adopted in order to:

*a)* achieve flexibility in the Table of Frequency Allocations;

*b)* protect the relevant allocations in the body of the Table and in other footnotes in accordance with Section II of Article **5**;

*c)* introduce either transitional or permanent restrictions on a new service to achieve compatibility; or

*d)* meet the specific requirements of a country or area when it is impracticable to satisfy such needs otherwise within the Table of Frequency Allocations;

4 that footnotes serving a common purpose should be in a common format, and, where possible, be grouped into a single footnote with appropriate references to the relevant frequency bands,

further resolves

1 that any addition of a new footnote or modification of an existing footnote should be considered by a world radiocommunication conference only when:

*a)* the agenda of that conference explicitly includes the frequency band to which the proposed additional or modified footnote relates; or

*b)* the frequency bands to which the desired additions or modifications of the footnote belong are considered during the conference and the conference decides to make a change in those bands; or

*c)* the addition or modification of footnotes is specifically included in the agenda of the conference as a result of the consideration of proposals submitted by one or more interested administration(s);

2 that recommended agendas for future world radiocommunication conferences should include a standing agenda item which would allow for the consideration of proposals by administrations for deletion of country footnotes, or country names in footnotes, if no longer required;

3 to request administrations to submit, to the extent practicable, their proposals under WRC standing agenda item mentioned in *further resolves*2 to the second session of the Conference Preparatory Meeting, as an advance intention to do so subject to further refinements, at the later stage if absolutely necessary;

4 that in cases not covered by *further resolves*1 and 2, proposals for new footnotes or modification of existing footnotes could exceptionally be considered by a world radiocommunication conference if they concern corrections of obvious omissions, inconsistencies, ambiguities or editorial errors and have been submitted to ITU as stipulated in No. 40 of the General Rules of Conferences, Assemblies and Meetings of the Union (Antalya, 2006),

invites Conference Preparatory Meeting

to list and include in the CPM Report, those proposals that have been received by the second session of the Conference Preparatory Meeting under WRC standing agenda item mentioned in *further resolves*2;

urges administrations

1 to review footnotes periodically and to propose the deletion of their country footnotes or of their country names from footnotes, as appropriate;

2 to take account of the *further resolves*above in making proposals to world radiocommunication conferences.

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