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| **World Radiocommunication Conference (WRC-23) Dubai, 20 November - 15 December 2023** | A close up of a sign  Description automatically generated |
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| Asia-Pacific Telecommunity Common Proposals | |
| Proposals for the work of the conference | |
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| Agenda item 8 | |

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-19)**;

Resolution [**26 (Rev.WRC-19)**](https://www.itu.int/dms_pub/itu-r/oth/0c/0a/R0C0A00000F0013PDFE.pdf) **-** Footnotes to the Table of Frequency Allocations in Article **5** of the Radio Regulations

**Introduction**

The scope of this standing agenda item is detailed in *further resolves* 2 of Resolution **26 (Rev.WRC-19)** which allows for the consideration of proposals by administrations for deletion of country footnotes, or country names in footnotes, if no longer required.

However, at previous WRCs, proposals from administrations to add their country names to the existing footnotes in Article **5** of the Radio Regulations were considered under this agenda item.   
In some cases, proposals were also made from administrations for new country footnotes under this agenda item.

It is recognized that it is not the intention of WRCs to encourage the addition of country names to the existing footnotes. Based on decisions taken at WRC-12 and WRC-15 on how a conference may deal with issues other than the deletion of country names from footnotes or deletion of country footnotes, WRC‑19 provided guidance to future conferences as shown in Annex 1 to Resolution **26 (Rev.WRC‑19)**.

**Views and Proposals**

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

APT Members support the principles and intent of Resolution **26 (Rev.WRC-19)** and the WRC standing agenda item for administrations to remove their country footnotes or their country names associated with specific footnotes of the Table of Frequency Allocations in Article **5** of the Radio Regulations when no longer required.

**Issue B – Addition of country names into existing footnotes**

The addition of country names to existing footnotes during the conference can carry with it considerable impact to existing allocations and the management of spectrum in other (often neighbouring) countries.

APT Members are of the view that this standing agenda item is not intended for adding country names into existing footnotes. 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 (see Annex 1 to Resolution **26 (Rev.WRC-19)**).

**Issue C – Addition of new country footnotes**

Previous WRCs have considered proposals for addition of new country footnotes under this agenda item and determined that proposals for the addition of new country footnotes which are not related to agenda items of the Conference should not be considered (see Annex 1 to Resolution **26 (Rev.WRC-19)**).

APT Members are of the view that this WRCs standing agenda item for deletion of country names from footnotes is not intended for the addition of new country footnotes and therefore proposals for the addition of new country footnotes which are not related to agenda items of the Conference shall not be considered

**Issue D – Availability of proposals under WRC standing Agenda Item 8**

APT Members are of the view that the proposals under this WRCs standing agenda item should be available in a timely and efficient manner before a conference for due consideration of administrations.

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RESOLUTION 26 (REV.WRC‑23)

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

The World Radiocommunication Conference (Dubai, 2023),

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 (WRCs) 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,

noting

*a)* that some footnotes have been developed and revised under relevant agenda items of WRCs, while footnotes which are not related to those agenda items were considered by previous WRCs, as described in Annex1 to this Resolution, under the standing agenda item referred to in *further resolves*2;

*b)* that, under certain circumstances and on a purely exceptional basis, previous WRCs considered proposals for the addition of country names to existing footnotes which were not related to the case mentioned in *further resolves* 1;

*c)* that previous conferences also received proposals for the addition of new country footnotes not related to any agenda items, and that these proposals were not accepted;

*d)* that administrations need sufficient time to examine the potential consequences of changes to footnotes to the Table of Frequency Allocations;

*e)* the importance of coordination between countries before a WRC to agree on changes related to country 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 WRC only when:

*a)* the agenda of that WRC 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 WRC and WRC decides to make a change in those frequency bands; or

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

d) administrations should submit such proposals to the conference under the relevant agenda item as appropriate (see also section B of Annex 1 to this Resolution),

2 that recommended agendas for future WRCs 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 (see also section A of Annex 1),

3 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 WRC 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,

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 *further resolves*above in making proposals to WRCs in relation to footnotes or country names in footnotes;

3 to submit their proposals under WRC standing agenda item described in *further resolves* 2 to the second session of the CPM for information if available before submitting them as soon as possible to the conference.

ANNEX 1 TO RESOLUTION 26 (REV.WRC-23)

Previous WRCs have recognized that the scope of the WRCs standing agenda item described in *further resolves* 2 of this Resolution is only related to requests from administrations to delete their country footnotes or to have their country name deleted from footnotes, if no longer required. However, previous WRCs have also received proposals on the addition of country names to existing footnotes and on the addition of new country footnotes.

It is recognized that it is not the intention of WRCs to encourage the addition of country names to existing footnotes.

Taking into account the decisions of WRC‑12, WRC‑15 and WRC‑19 on the same subject, it is suggested that future WRCs may apply a similar approach to previous WRCs.

Future WRCs may consider the following guidance derived from the above-mentioned decisions.

A) The work of WRC on proposals submitted under the standing agenda item described in *further resolves* 2 of this Resolution may be based on the following:

i) Under certain circumstances, on a purely exceptional basis and if justified, proposals for the addition of country names to existing footnotes may be considered by WRCs, but their acceptance is subject to the express condition that there are no objections from affected countries.

ii) Should a WRC decide to accept submissions of additional proposals for the addition of country names to existing footnotes based on the proposals received, it may establish a deadline for such further contributions to WRC.

iii) A deadline may also be established for proposals on the deletion of country names, if appropriate, taking into account that administrations require sufficient time to analyse the proposals.

iv) Proposals for the addition of new country footnotes which are not related to agenda items of a WRC or cases described in *further resolves*1 of this Resolution should not be considered.

B) The proposals on additions of country names to existing footnotes or new country footnotes in the cases addressed by *further resolves*1 of this Resolution are to be treated under the relevant agenda item of the conference, as appropriate.

Administrations are urged to submit their proposals under relevant agenda items of the conference.

Proposals for additions which do not fall within the categories referred to in *further resolves* 1 of this Resolution may be considered under the standing agenda item described in *further resolves* 2 of this Resolution and are subject to the principles mentioned in A) above.

**Reasons:** Based on the above APT views for Issues B, C and D, it is required to modify Resolution **26 (Rev.WRC‑19)** to improve clarity and alignment with current practice. In particular, to address the issue of timely consideration of administrations requests to vary footnotes in accordance with Resolution **26 (Rev.WRC-19)**, it is proposed to modify Resolution **26 (Rev.WRC-19)** to encourage administrations to submit their proposals under this agenda item to the second session of the CPM and invites the CPM to include these proposals for information in its Report to the Conference.

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