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| **The 4th Meeting of the APT Conference Preparatory**  **Group for WRC-23 (APG23-4)** | **APG23-4/OUT-37** |
| 15 – 20 August 2022, Bangkok, Thailand | 20 August 2022 |

Working Party 5

**PRELIMINARY VIEWs on WRC-23 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-19)***

**1. Background**

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*

**Responsible Group:** WRC-23

This is a standing WRC agenda item.

Footnotes are an integral part of the RR Article **5** Table of Frequency Allocations (ToFA). For the ToFA to effectively guide administrations the footnotes to the table must kept up to date.   
Agenda item 8 requests administrations to review footnotes and to propose the deletion of their country footnotes or of their country names from footnotes if no longer required.

The scope of this standing agenda item is detailed in *further resolves* 2 of Resolution **26 (Rev.WRC-19)** which states …

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.

However, at previous WRCs proposals from administrations to add their country names to existing footnotes to Article **5** ToFA under this agenda item were considered. 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 existing footnotes.

The *further resolves* 1 of Resolution **26 (Rev.WRC-19)** clearly shows the terms in which proposals from administrations to add country names to footnotes or introduce new country footnotes may be considered at a conference …

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);

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)**. This guidance includes the following agreed principles;

* 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.
* Proposals for the addition of new country footnotes which are not related to agenda items of a WRC should not be considered.
* The proposals for additions of country names to existing footnotes or new country footnotes are to be treated in the WRC committees responsible under the relevant agenda items, as appropriate and not under this standing agenda item.

**2. Documents**

**2.1. Input Documents:** [APG23-4/INP-18](https://www.apt.int/sites/default/files/2022/08/APG23-4-INP-18_AUS_WP5_Preliminary_Views_on_WRC-23_Agenda_Items_2_4_8_9.1Topic_b_and_10.docx)(AUS), [30](https://www.apt.int/sites/default/files/2022/08/APG23-4-INP-30_IRN_WP5_Preliminary_Views_on_WRC-23_Agenda_Item_8.docx)(IRN)

**2.2. Information Documents**:[APG23-4/INF-21](https://www.apt.int/sites/default/files/2022/08/APG23-4-INF-21_ASMG_Preparation_for_WRC-23.pdf)(ASMG), [35(Rev.1)](https://www.apt.int/sites/default/files/2022/08/APG23-4-INF-35Rev.1_ITU-BR_Updates_on_ITU_preparations_for_CPM23-2_RA-23_and_WRC-23.pdf)(BR ITU), [44](https://www.apt.int/sites/default/files/2022/08/APG23-4-INF-44_Status_of_RCC_preparation_to_the_World_Radio_Conference_and_Radio_Assembly_2023.pdf) (RCC), [48](https://www.apt.int/sites/default/files/2022/08/APG23-4-INF-48_Status_of_CEPT_preparation_for_WRC-23_and_RA-23.pdf)(CEPT), [49](https://www.apt.int/sites/default/files/2022/08/APG23-4-INF-49_Brief_on_AI8.docx) (DG8, Chair)

**3. Summary of discussions**

**3.1 Summary of APT Members’ views**

**3.1.1 Australia** - **Document** [APG23-4/INP-18](https://www.apt.int/sites/default/files/2022/08/APG23-4-INP-18_AUS_WP5_Preliminary_Views_on_WRC-23_Agenda_Items_2_4_8_9.1Topic_b_and_10.docx)

Australia supports 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.

Should there be contributions to WRC-23 under this standing agenda item for addition of a new footnote or modification of an existing footnote, such contributions should only be considered by the WRC consistent with the further resolves 1 of Resolution **26 (Rev.WRC-19)** and the guidance provide in Annex 1 to the Resolution.

**3.1.2 Iran** - **Document APG23-4/INP-30**

The Administration of the I.R. Iran proposes that the following views be adopted as APT Preliminary Views at this stage:

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

Resolution **26 (Rev.WRC-19)** *further resolves* 2 clearly 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.’

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.

Adding a country name to an existing footnote is not within scope of the standing agenda item.

However, previous conferences have considered proposals for addition of country names to existing footnotes under this standing agenda item subject to the following principle:

“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.” (see [WRC-15 Document 142 (Rev.1)](https://www.itu.int/dms_ties/itu-r/md/15/wrc15/c/R15-WRC15-C-0142!R1!MSW-E.docx)).

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)**).

It may be required to modify Resolution **26 (Rev.WRC-19)** to improve clarity and align with WRC current practice on the addition of country names to existing footnotes,

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

Previous conferences have considered proposals for addition of new country footnotes under this agenda item and determined the following principle:

“Proposals for the addition of new country footnotes which are not related to agenda items of the Conference should not be considered.” (see [WRC-15 Document 142 (Rev.1)](https://www.itu.int/dms_ties/itu-r/md/15/wrc15/c/R15-WRC15-C-0142!R1!MSW-E.docx)).

APT Members are of the view that the 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 should not be considered (See Annex 1 to Resolution **26 (Rev.WRC-19)**).

It may be required to modify Resolution **26 (Rev.WRC-19)** to improve clarity of the situation.

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

APT Members are of the view that the proposals under this WRC standing agenda item, should be available in a timely and efficient manner before a conference for due consideration of administrations. 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 and no later than 21 calendar days before a conference, as applies to all WRC contributions (consistent with resolves 1 of Resolution 165 (Rev.Dubai, 2018), for matters to be accepted for consideration by a conference under this standing agenda item.

**Issue E – Possible revision of Resolution** 26 (Rev. WRC-19).

Based on the APT Views, a modification to Resolution **26 (Rev.WRC-19)** may be proposed.

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

None

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

**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 conferences have considered proposals for addition of new country footnotes under this agenda item and determined the following principle:

“Proposals for the addition of new country footnotes which are not related to agenda items of the Conference should not be considered.” (see [WRC-15 Document 142 (Rev.1)](https://www.itu.int/dms_ties/itu-r/md/15/wrc15/c/R15-WRC15-C-0142!R1!MSW-E.docx)).

APT Members are of the view that the 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 should not be considered (See Annex 1 to Resolution **26 (Rev.WRC-19)**).

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

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

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

None

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

It may be required to modify Resolution **26 (Rev.WRC‑19)** to improve clarity and alignment with current practice for Issues B, C and D (see section 3.1.2). It also may be required to modify Resolution ITU-R 2-8 in respect of Issue D.

APT Members are invited in the time before WRC-23 to inform APG of their intentions under this agenda item including:

* Deletion of their country name from footnotes,
* Deletion of their country footnote,
* The view to retain their country names in footnotes or country footnotes,
* To add their country name to footnotes in accordance with the provisions mentioned above of Resolution **26 (Rev.WRC-19)** (See Section 1 of this Document).

**7. Views from Other Organisations**

(as provided in the information documents to APG23-4)

**7.1 Regional Groups**

**7.1.1 ASMG** - **Document APG23-4/INF-21**

* + ASMG administrations support ITU-R activities aimed to achieve global or regional harmonization of spectrum utilization by removing country names from footnotes or adding country names to footnotes.
  + Urge ASMG administrations to review the relevant footnotes.

**7.1.2 RCC - Document APG23-4/INF-44**

The RCC Telecommunication Administrations support the ITU-R activities towards global harmonization of spectrum utilization by deleting the number of country footnotes of RR Article 5 or to have their country name deleted from footnotes.

The RCC Telecommunication Administrations are of the view that, this agenda item is not intended for adding country names into existing footnotes, as well as adding new footnotes to RR Article 5.

Any change to footnotes of RR Article 5 under this agenda item requires consideration of possible consequences with regard to such changes and, accordingly, obtaining the consent of the affected Telecommunication Administrations.

**7.1.3 CEPT** - **Document APG23-4/INF-48**

**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 existing footnotes**

• CEPT is of the view that this agenda item is not intended for adding country names into existing 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.

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

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

**Issue D – Availability of proposals**

• CEPT supports administrations bringing their proposals on agenda item 8 to the attention of other administrations with a view to avoid any potential difficulties well before a WRC.

• CEPT is of the view that the current practice on establishment of submission deadlines should be kept by the WRC‐23 with regard to additional proposals for deletion of country names from footnotes and for addition of country names to existing footnotes.

**Issue E – Possible revision of Resolution 26 (Rev. WRC‐19)**

CEPT supports retaining Resolution **26 (Rev. WRC‐19)**.

**7.2 International Organisations**

**7.2.1 ICAO – Document** [**APG23-3/INF-15**](https://www.apt.int/sites/default/files/2021/10/APG23-3-INF-15_ICAO-Position_for_ITU_WRC-23.docx)

To encourage administrations listed in the footnotes to review Nos. **5.181, 5.197** and **5.259**, as access to the frequency bands 74.8-75.2, 108-112 and 328.6-335.4 MHz by the mobile service is difficult and could create the potential for harmful interference to important radionavigation systems used by aircraft at final approach and landing as well as systems operating in the aeronautical mobile service in the frequency band 108-112 MHz.

To encourage administrations listed in the footnotes to review Nos. **5.201 and 5.202**, as use by the AM(OR)S of the frequency bands 132-136 MHz and 136-137 MHz in some States may cause harmful interference to aeronautical safety communications.

To encourage administrations listed in the footnote to review No. **5.330** as access to the frequency band 1 215-1 300 MHz by the fixed and mobile services could potentially cause harmful interference to services used to support aircraft operations.

To encourage administrations listed the footnote to review No. **5.352A** as access to the frequency bands 1 525-1 530 MHz by the fixed services could potentially constrain aeronautical use of this frequency band.

To encourage administrations listed in the footnote to review No. **5.355** as access to the frequency bands 1 540-1 559, 1 610.6-1 613.8 and 1 613.8-1 626.5 MHz by the fixed services could potentially constrain aeronautical use of these frequency bands.

To encourage administrations listed in the footnote to review No. **5.359** as access to the frequency bands 1 550-1 559 MHz, 1 610-1 645.5 MHz and 1 646.5-1 660 MHz by the fixed services could potentially jeopardize aeronautical use of those frequency bands.

To encourage administrations listed in the footnote to review No. **5.439** to ensure the protection of the safety critical operation of radio altimeters and WAIC systems in the frequency band 4 200-4 400 MHz.

ICAO would encourage administrations to take appropriate actions under this agenda item to remove their country’s name from these footnotes if no longer required.

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