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| **42 MEETING OF PERMANENT**  **CONSULTATIVE COMMITTEE II:**  **RADIOCOMMUNICATIONS**  **August 28 to September 01, 2023**  **Ottawa, Canada** | | **OEA/Ser.L/XVII.4.2.42**  **CCP.II-RADIO /doc. 5907/23 rev. 1**  **29 August 2023**  **Original: English** | |
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|  | **PROPOSALS FOR THE WORK OF THE CONFERENCE AGENDA ITEM 10 – PAI 2.10 MARITIME VHF** | |  |
|  | **(Item on the Agenda: 3.1 (SGT-5))** | |  |
|  | **(Document submitted by the delegation of the United States of America)** | |  |

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| **Impact on the sector:** |
| This document supports the work of CITEL’s PCC.II Working Group for WRC under 3.1 of the agenda. |

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| **Executive Summary:** |
| Under agenda item 10, the United States proposes inclusion of preliminary agenda item 2.10 for the agenda of WRC-27 and modification to Resolution 363 (WRC-19), and the consequential suppression of Resolution 812 (WRC-19) as it is no longer necessary. **Agenda Item 2.10 improves the efficiency of the use of the maritime VHF band**. **Improved spectrum efficiency of the maritime VHF band (Appendix 18 of the Radio Regulations) is needed to support the added safety services and the expanding maritime shipping communications in the world’s busy maritime ports.** |

**UNITED STATES OF AMERICA**

**PROPOSALS FOR THE WORK OF THE CONFERENCE**

**Agenda Item 10**

**Continuation of agenda item 2.10 on the preliminary WRC-27 agenda and modification of corresponding Resolution 363 (WRC‑19)**

**Background:**

Resolution 363 (WRC-19), “Considerations to improve the utilization of the VHF maritime frequencies in Appendix 18,” is consequential to the addition of maritime safety services by WRC-19 in Appendix 18, combined with the increase in shipping and general maritime vessel traffic, which has overloaded the VHF maritime frequency channels. Furthermore, plans to add security measures to improve safety services will result in the need for more efficient spectrum usage.

**Proposals**

SUP USA/10 (improving the utilization of the VHF maritime frequencies in Appendix 18)/1

RESOLUTION 812 (WRC-19)

Preliminary agenda for the 2027 World Radiocommunication Conference

**Reasons:** This Resolution must be suppressed, as WRC-23 will create a new Resolution that will include the agenda for WRC-27.

ADD USA/10 (improving the utilization of the VHF maritime frequencies in Appendix 18)/2

DRAFT NEW RESOLUTION [AI 10] (WRC‑23)

Agenda for the 2027 world radiocommunication conference

The World Radiocommunication Conference (Dubai, 2023),

considering

*a)* that, in accordance with No. 118 of the ITU Convention, the general scope of the agenda for a world radiocommunication conference (WRC) should be established four to six years in advance and that a final agenda shall be established by the ITU Council two years before the conference;

*b)* Article 13 of the ITU Constitution relating to the competence and scheduling of WRCs and Article 7 of the Convention relating to their agendas;

*c)* the relevant resolutions and recommendations of previous world administrative radio conferences (WARCs) and WRCs,

recognizing

*a)* that this conference has identified a number of urgent issues requiring further examination by WRC‑27;

*b)* that, in preparing this agenda, some items proposed by administrations could not be included and have had to be deferred to future conference agendas,

resolves

to recommend to the Council that a WRC be held in 2027 for a maximum period of four weeks, with the following agenda:

1 on the basis of proposals from administrations, taking account of the results of WRC‑23 and the Report of the Conference Preparatory Meeting, and with due regard to the requirements of existing and future services in the frequency bands under consideration, to consider and take appropriate action in respect of the following items:

1.x to consider improving the utilization of the VHF maritime frequencies in Appendix **18**, in accordance with Resolution **363 (WRC-23)**;

*resolves further*

to activate the Conference Preparatory Meeting,

*invites the ITU Council*

to finalize the agenda and arrange for the convening of WRC‑27, and to initiate as soon as possible the necessary consultations with Member States,

*instructs the Director of the Radiocommunication Bureau*

to make the necessary arrangements to convene meetings of the Conference Preparatory Meeting and to prepare a report to WRC‑27,

*instructs the Secretary-General*

to communicate this Resolution to international and regional organizations concerned.

MOD USA/10 (improving the utilization of the VHF maritime frequencies in Appendix 18)/3

RESOLUTION 363 (WRC-23)

**Considerations to improve utilization of the VHF maritime   
frequencies in Appendix 18**

The World Radiocommunication Conference (Dubai, 2023),   
*considering*

1. that Appendix 18 identifies frequencies to be used for distress and safety communications and other maritime communications on an international basis;
2. that congestion on Appendix 18 frequencies requires consideration of efficient new technologies;
3. that the ITU Radiocommunication Sector (ITU-R) is conducting ongoing studies on improving efficiency in the use of Appendix 18;
4. that the use of digital technologies will make it possible to respond to the emerging demand for new uses and ease congestion;
5. that use of existing maritime mobile service (MMS) allocations, where practicable, for ship and port security and enhanced maritime safety would be preferable, particularly where international interoperability is required;
6. that changes made in Appendix 18 should not prejudice the future use of these frequencies or the capabilities of systems or new applications required for use by the MMS;
7. that the International Maritime Organization (IMO) has initiated a regulatory scoping exercise for the use of maritime autonomous surface ships (MASS);
8. that the International Association of Marine Aids to Navigation and Lighthouse Authorities (IALA) is developing ranging mode (R-Mode), which is a radionavigation system that is intended to provide a contingency system in case of temporary global navigation satellite system (GLASS) disruption, to support e-navigation,

*recognizing*

1. that it is desirable to enhance maritime safety and ship and port security via spectrum-dependent systems;
2. that ITU and relevant international organizations have initiated related studies on the use of digital technologies for maritime safety and ship and port security;
3. that studies will be required to provide a basis for considering possible regulatory provisions to improve maritime safety and ship and port security, which may need access to spectrum for experimental use;
4. that, in order to provide worldwide interoperability of equipment on ships, there should be harmonized technologies, or interoperable technologies, implemented under Appendix 18;
5. that administrations' and some relevant international organizations' efforts to continue the development of R-Mode to support the implementation of e-navigation may require a review of the Radio Regulations;
6. that some frequencies in the frequency bands used by maritime mobile service in Appendix **18** are **allocated to the fixed and mobile service on a co-primary basis;**

g) that a need exists to **protect existing and planned in-band and adjacent band services** with no **additional regulatory or technical constraints to these co-primary** incumbent services when considering potential modifications to maritime mobile service channeling arrangements in Appendix **18**,

*noting*

a) that WRC-12, WRC-15 and this conference have reviewed Appendix **18** to improve use and efficiency for data communication using digital systems;

b) that maritime on-board communication systems have implemented digital technologies for voice communication as described in Recommendation ITU-R M.1174 to improve efficient use of the frequency band 450-470 MHz;

c) that digital systems have been implemented in the land mobile service, *noting further*

that WRC-12, WRC-15 and this conference have reviewed Appendix **18** to improve efficiency and introduce frequency bands for new digital technology for data communication, e.g. for the introduction of the VHF data exchange system (VDES),

*resolves to invite the 2027 World Radiocommunication Conference*

1 to consider possible changes to Appendix **18,** excluding any new allocations in Article **5** and within Appendix **18** frequency bands,in order to enable use in the MMS for future implementation of new technologies, for improving efficient use of the maritime frequency bands; 2 to consider possible changes to the Radio Regulations, excluding any new allocations within Appendix **18** frequency bands, for implementation of R-Mode as a new maritime radionavigation service,

*invites relevant international organizations*

to participate actively in the studies by providing requirements and information that should be taken into account in ITU-R studies,

*invites the ITU Radiocommunication Sector*

to conduct sharing and compatibility studies with incumbent services that are allocated on a primary basis in the same and adjacent frequency bands, taking into account *recognizing* f) and g), when determining the necessary regulatory provisions and spectrum needs according to *resolves to invite the 2027 World Radiocommunication Conference,*

*instructs the Secretary-General*

to bring this Resolution to the attention of IMO and other international and regional organizations concerned.

**Reasons:** Resolution **363 (WRC-23)** should be revised and included to the new agenda that will be developed for WRC-27.

**ATTACHMENT**

**Subject**:To consider improving the utilization of the VHF maritime frequencies in Appendix 18, in accordance with Resolution 363 (WRC-23).

**Origin**: Preliminary WRC-27 agenda item 2.10, as revised by the United States of America.

*Proposal:* To consider possible changes to Appendix 18, excluding any new allocations in Article 5 and within Appendix 18 frequency bands,to enable use in the MMS for future implementation of new technologies, for improving efficient use of the maritime frequency bands, as well as for the implementation of the R-Mode as a new maritime radionavigation service,

***Background/reason****:* Resolution 363 (WRC-), “Considerations to improve the utilization of the VHF maritime frequencies in Appendix 18,” is consequential to the addition of maritime mobile service applications by WRC-19 in Appendix 18, combined with the increase in shipping and general maritime vessel traffic, which has overloaded the VHF maritime frequency channels. Furthermore, plans to add security measures to improve safety services will result in the need for more efficient use of spectrum in Appendix 18.

***Radiocommunication services concerned****:*Fixed Service, Mobile Service, Maritime Mobile Service, Mobile-Satellite Service.

***Indication of possible difficulties****:* None foreseen

***Previous/ongoing studies on the issue****:* None

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| ***Studies to be carried out by: ITU-R WP5B*** | *with the participation of:*  Administrations and Sector members of the ITU-R |

***ITU-R Study Groups concerned****:* ***SG 5***

***ITU resource implications, including financial implications (refer to CV126)****:* This proposed agenda item will be studied within the normal ITU-R procedures and planned budget.

***Common regional proposal****:* Yes/No ***Multicountry proposal:*** Yes/No

*Number of countries:*

***Remarks***