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| **36 MEETING OF PERMANENT**  **CONSULTATIVE COMMITTEE II:**  **RADIOCOMMUNICATIONS**  **November 30 to December 4, 2020**  ***Virtual meeting*** | | **OEA/Ser.L/XVII.4.2.36**  **CCP.II-RADIO/doc. /20**  **7 November 2020**  **Original: English** | |
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|  | **U.S. PRELIMINARY VIEW ON WRC-23 AGENDA ITEM 1.5** | |  |
|  | **(Item on the Agenda: 3.1)** | |  |
|  | **(Document submitted by the United States of America)** | |  |

**Introduction:**

This document contains an attachment including the USA preliminary view on WRC-23 Agenda Item 1.5 for consideration in CITEL’s preparation for WRC-23.

**UNITED STATES OF AMERICA**

**DRAFT PRELIMINARY VIEWS FOR WRC-23**

**AGENDA ITEM 1.5**: to review the spectrum use and spectrum needs of existing services in the frequency band 470-960 MHz in Region 1 and consider possible regulatory actions in the frequency band 470-694 MHz in Region 1 on the basis of the review in accordance with Resolution **235 (WRC-15)**;

# BACKGROUND:

Mobile broadband access has become a key driver of global economic growth, job creation and competitiveness and the COVID-19 pandemic has reinforced the critical importance of wireless connectivity in keeping citizens connected. The spectrum below 1 GHz is exceptionally suited for mobile broadband applications. In particular, the unique propagation characteristics of the bands below 1 GHz allow for in-building penetration and wider area coverage which in turn requires less infrastructure and facilitates service delivery to rural or sparsely populated areas.

WRC-23 Agenda Item 1.5 seeks to review the spectrum use of the frequency band 470-960 MHz in Region 1, including mobile allocations and IMT identification in all or parts of the band. Part of this band was studied under AI 1.1 of WRC-15 and resulted in new mobile allocations and identifications for IMT in portions of the range for some administrations in Regions 2 and 3.

Since then, 3GPP has specified Band 71 (the range 663 – 698 MHz / 617 – 652 MHz) as an operating band for 5G NR and equipment is already available for that band. The United States made that band available for mobile broadband licensees through a successful incentive auction which concluded in April 2017. Mexico successfully cleared the band in October 2018, thereby releasing the 600 MHz band for mobile broadband use. In April 2019, Canada concluded its 600 MHz auction. The momentum is growing for the 614-698 MHz and 698-790 MHz bands; as of WRC-19, a total of 8 countries in Region 2 and 7 in Region 3 have IMT identifications including these bands, with 28 countries in Region 3 have IMT identifications in the 698-790 MHz band. Internationally harmonized bands benefit consumers, through economies of scale in infrastructure, devices, chipsets, etc., thereby reducing network deployment and consumer costs while simultaneously enabling global roaming.

# U.S. VIEW:

In the interest of global harmonization and economies of scale, the United States supports studies for additional allocations to the mobile service in Region 1, including potential identifications to IMT as long as studies indicate that such use would not impose undue constraints on the existing services and their future development in Region 2.