Contribution of the
Director General

FWP-17-05
28 May 2026

REPORT OF THE DIRECTOR GENERAL ON RESOLUTION ITU-R 69-2

Any question of clarification regarding this document which can be resolved prior to the meeting should be referred to
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I. REVISED RESOLUTION 69 BY RADIOCOMMUNICATION ASSEMBLY 23

1. Resolution 69 was revised in response to a contribution initially prepared by ITSO and channeled via CITEL, which was subsequently submitted to Radiocommunication Assembly 23 (RA-23). The Resolution was further revised at the RA-23 with clarifications introduced on certain *considerings*, with the aim of enhancing the role of satellite communications and emphasizing the mandates of previous decisions taken at Plenipotentiary Conference Bucharest 2022 and World Telecommunication Development Conference, held in Kigali in 2022. The resulting text, with the revisions introduced by RA 23, is provided in section 6 of this report.

2. RA-23 modified Resolution 69 to invite the Director of the Radiocommunication Bureau to: "*organize workshops, seminars and training courses that specifically address sustainable and affordable access to satellite telecommunications, including broadband connectivity, and to continue activities between the relevant study groups of ITU D and ITU-R that will assist developing countries to extend and enhance the capacity-building activities on the use of broadband connectivity via satellite*".

The ITU Radiocommunication Assembly,

considering

a) the key strategic role that satellite telecommunications plays in contributing to the achievement of economic and developmental goals of the ITU Member States;

b) the contribution of broadband connectivity using satellite technologies could make toward achievement of the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals as well as reduction in the digital divide, particularly in rural and remote areas;

c) that the expansion of broadband connectivity using satellite services is generating growth in developing countries through e-applications such as e-health, e-learning, e-government, teleworking and residential and community Internet access, which can be used as tools for achieving ICT policy objectives;

d) that the introduction of competition into the international satellite telecommunication sector has led to an increase in the availability of diverse and innovative international telecommunication services in both developed and developing countries;

e) that governments, the private sector, and international and regional intergovernmental organizations are fostering innovation, affordability and broader availability of international public telecommunication services via satellite through ITU-Registration and deployment of their own satellite systems;

f) the need to ensure global coverage and the connection of countries directly, instantly and reliably at an affordable price;

g) that the Geneva Plan of Action incorporates actions in order "to promote the provision of global high-speed satellite services for underserved areas such as remote and sparsely populated areas";

h) that the Report of the Secretary-General for ECOSOC issued in May 2009 clearly recognized that "*satellite service continues to play a vital role in television broadcasting and in connecting more isolated and rural areas*"[1];

i) that Article 44 of the ITU Constitution stipulates that: "*In using frequency bands for radio services, Member States shall bear in mind that radio frequencies and any associated orbits, including the geostationary-satellite orbit, are limited natural resources and that they must be used rationally, efficiently and economically, in conformity with the provisions of the Radio Regulations, so that countries or groups of countries may have equitable access to those orbits and frequencies, taking account the special needs of the developing countries and the geographical situation of particular countries*",

taking into account

a) Resolution 1721 (XVI) of the United Nations General Assembly, which sets forth the principle of the availability of satellite communications to the nations of the world on a global basis;

b) Resolution 71 (Rev. Bucharest, 2022) of the Plenipotentiary Conference, on the ITU strategic plan for2024-2027, which states that the mission of ITU is "*To promote, facilitate and foster affordable and universal access to telecommunication/information and communication technology networks, services and applications and their use for social, economic and environmentally sustainable growth and development*", and that, under the thematic priority of the Spectrum use for space and terrestrial services, "*ITU activities (...) are focused on improving the use of the radio frequency spectrum for radiocommunication services and of the geostationary-satellite and other satellite orbits, while coordinating efforts to prevent and resolve harmful interference between radio stations of different countries and facilitating the efficient and effective operation of all radiocommunication services*";

c) Resolution 135 (Rev. Bucharest, 2022) of the Plenipotentiary Conference, which resolves that the Telecommunication Development Bureau shall promote collaborative activities in coordination with the different Sectors of the Union to create and build capacities so as to provide and deepen universal access to knowledge on optimal use of telecommunication resources, including orbital resources and associated radio-frequency spectrum resources, and to increase access to and the connectivity of telecommunication/ICT systems and networks included in national and regional telecommunication projects and plans;

d) Resolution 37 (Rev. Kigali, 2022) of the World Telecommunication Development Conference, on bridging the digital divide, which highlights the role of space services in bridging the digital divide,

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[1] Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC), Commission on Science and Technology for Development, twelfth session, Geneva, 25-29 May 2009, Report of the Secretary-General. Page 11, http://www.unctad.org/en/docs/ecn162009d2_en.pdf. (Progress made in the implementation of and follow-up to the World Summit on the Information Society outcomes at the regional and international levels - Development-oriented policies for socio-economic inclusive information society, including access, infrastructure and an enabling environment).

considering further

a) the need to assist developing countries in deploying and using satellite telecommunications to enable sustainable and affordable access to international public telecommunication services;

b) that efficient use of the orbital resource and associated frequency spectrum helps both to ensure global coverage and to connect countries directly, instantly and reliably at an affordable price;

c) the importance for Member States of adopting and promoting policies that encourage public and private operators to invest in the development and building of telecommunications/ICTs, including radiocommunication and satellite systems, for early warning systems, the management of emergency and disaster situations, and health-related emergencies, among others,

reaffirms

a) ITU's role in international management of the radio-frequency spectrum and satellite-orbit resource;

b) the international rights and obligations of all administrations in respect of their own and other administrations' frequency assignments;

c) that ITU satellite coordination and notification procedures specified in the Radio Regulations are used to obtain international recognition and protection for satellite network operations;

d) the principle that countries should have equitable access to the radio-frequency spectrum and satellite orbits in accordance with the Radio Regulations, taking into account the special needs of developing countries and the geographical situation of particular countries,

noting

a) that Resolution 191 (Rev. Bucharest, 2022) of the Plenipotentiary Conference, on strategy for the coordination of efforts among the three Sectors of the Union, recognizes that coordinated and complementary efforts make it possible to reach more Member States, with greater impact, so as to bridge the digital divide and the standardization gap, as well as contributing to better radio-frequency spectrum management, and instructs the Secretary-General and the Directors of the three Bureaux to ensure reporting to the Council of the coordination activities carried out among the different Sectors in each area identified as being of mutual interest, as well as the results obtained;

b) the activities of the ITU-D study groups in preparing materials to assist developing countries in the areas of spectrum management, broadband access technologies and telecommunications/ICTs for rural and remote areas and disaster management;

c) that ITU-D, ITU-R and the International Telecommunications Satellite Organization (ITSO) and other satellite organizations have been cooperating on capacity-building activities facilitating the development and deployment of international public telecommunication services

via satellite in developing countries, particularly through global coverage and delivery of broadband utilizing next-generation access technologies;

d) that Resolution 136 (Rev. Bucharest, 2022) of the Plenipotentiary Conference, on the use of telecommunications/information and communication technologies for humanitarian assistance and for monitoring and management in emergency and disaster situations, including health-related emergencies, for early warning, prevention, mitigation and relief, considers that satellite services, among other radiocommunication services, may constitute a reliable platform for public safety, especially in natural disasters when existing land networks are often disrupted, and are highly useful for the coordination of humanitarian assistance by government agencies and other humanitarian entities;

e) that Resolution 139 (Rev. Bucharest, 2022) of the Plenipotentiary Conference, on the use of telecommunications/information and communication technologies to bridge the digital divide and build an inclusive information society, instructs the Director of Radiocommunications Bureau to implement actions, in coordination with the Director of the Telecommunication Development Bureau, in order to support and share information about studies, tools and projects and, at the same time, promote joint activities aiming to build capacities for increasingly efficient use of the orbit/spectrum resource, with the purpose of expanding affordable access to broadband, including through space and terrestrial services and facilitating connectivity between networks, and between different zones, countries and regions, especially in developing countries,

resolves

1 that ITU-R continues to collaborate with, and provide information when requested by, ITU-D on satellite technologies and applications as defined in ITU-R Recommendations and Reports and on satellite regulatory procedures in the Radio Regulations that will help developing countries with development and implementation of satellite networks and services;

2 that ITU-R continues interrelated activities with ITU-D to support the development and deployment of international public telecommunication services via satellite in developing countries;

3 that ITU-R continues to undertake studies to determine whether it might be necessary to apply additional regulatory measures to facilitate the development, deployment and availability of international public telecommunications via satellite in developing countries,

instructs the Director of the Radiocommunication Bureau

to report the results of these studies to the 2027 Radiocommunication Assembly (RA-27),

invites the Director of the Telecommunication Development Bureau

1 to organize workshops, seminars and training courses that specifically address sustainable and affordable access to satellite telecommunications, including broadband connectivity, and to continue activities between the relevant study groups of ITU-D and ITU-R that will assist developing countries to extend and enhance the capacity-building activities on the use of broadband connectivity via satellite;

2 to bring this resolution to the attention of the World Telecommunication Development Conference,

invites administrations and members of the Radiocommunication Sector

to contribute to the implementation of this resolution.

II. IMPLEMENTATION OF PREVIOUS FWP RECOMMENDATIONS

During its previous meeting, the FWP recommended the "*Endorsement of, and support to, the ITSO contribution to the ITU World Telecommunications Development Conference (WTDC), aiming at emphasizing how the ITU D Question 1.1 Terms of Reference aligns with the scope of Resolution ITU-R 69-2 (work to be carried out by ITU-D in cooperation with ITU-R).*"

1. The work of the FWP contributed to the decision of maintaining and strengthening Resolution ITU-R 69, including an expanded mandate for ITU-R and ITU-D activities related to satellite broadband connectivity. A contribution was submitted to the World Telecommunications Development Conference of the ITU (WTDC-25) to emphasize the relevance of Resolution ITU-R 69-2 to the work of ITU-D, particularly in promoting satellite connectivity as a key enabler of universal access in remote and underserved regions and these objectives were reflected in the outcomes of WTDC-25.

III ONGOING ITU ACTIVITIES.

At the recent meeting of the ITU D Study Group 1 (14th April 2026), under the Question 1/1, further work is continuing on "Enabling policies and strategies for universal connectivity with a focus on underserved, remote and rural areas". Among other contributions, one document from GSOA emphasized the role of satellite connectivity for unserved areas. The discussion highlighted the importance of integrating satellite into national strategies and enabling regulatory frameworks for hybrid networks.

It is important to note that ITU D Study Group 1 has acknowledged the mandates associated to ITU-R 69, namely:

- Sharing and disseminating results of the studies towards promoting affordable access to satellite telecommunications, including broadband connectivity with the goal of supporting knowledge sharing and affordability of connectivity solutions; aligned with Res. 1 (Study group outputs), Res. 37 (Bridging the digital divide); contributes to Pillar 1 (Connectivity)
- Sharing case studies on capacity-building activities on the use of broadband connectivity via satellite with the goal of supporting skills development and knowledge transfer; aligned with Res. 40 (Capacity building), Res. 76 (Innovation); contributes to Pillar 2 (Digital capabilities) and Pillar 4 (Partnerships & innovation)

Similarly, ITU R Working Parties 4 A and 4 B have been meeting in April and May 2026 and several Recommendations on the use of satellite broadband connectivity infrastructures, as well as mechanisms to protect GSO FSS versus NGSO FSS (review of article 22 Radio Regulations) are under discussion.

One aspect to note on the work of the ITU-R is the development of a Handbook on satellite communications. This Handbook addresses radiocommunication and technical aspects of

satellite services within the scope of the ITU Radiocommunication Sector. It does not establish regulatory requirements, operational obligations, or policy frameworks beyond those contained in the Radio Regulations.

The objectives of the Handbook on Satellite Communications and Technologies are as follows:

– to provide a detailed guidance on the regulatory environment and procedures, specifically the application of the Radio Regulations, for administrations/national regulators, satellite operators and service providers in the operation, study/research, design, launch and management of applications of Fixed-Satellite Service (FSS), Mobile-Satellite Service (MSS), Broadcasting-Satellite Service (BSS), and Radiodetermination-Satellite Service (RDSS);

– to provide information on the space services with allocated radio-frequency spectrum, types of FSS/BSS/MSS/RDSS satellite systems, characteristics of space and earth stations, types of missions, space object registration, launch considerations, as well as space debris mitigation;

– to promote international cooperation among all ITU Member States, entities and organizations for the development of FSS/BSS/MSS/RDSS satellite systems and rational use of the radio-frequency spectrum;

– to raise awareness on current trends and applications of FSS/BSS/MSS/RDSS satellite system technologies on a worldwide basis;

IV. SUGGESTED FWP RECOMMENDATIONS

In light of the scope of revised Resolution 69, the ITSO FWP is requested to consider the following actions suggested, noting that they are all dependent on available financial and human resources:

1. Invite ITSO Parties to actively engage with ITU-D and prepare potential contributions to the work of ITU-D, in particular on subjects related to ITU-D Question 1.1., with the support of the Director General, and possibly SES and other partners, as appropriate.

2. Invite ITSO Parties to actively engage with ITU-R (notably Study Group 4 and Working Parties 4 A and 4 B) on matters of relevance to Resolution 69, with the support of the Director General, and possibly SES and other partners, as appropriate.

3. Invite the Director General, in cooperation with ITSO Parties, the ITU and possibly SES and other partners, to consider organizing workshops and/or seminars that address sustainable and affordable access to satellite telecommunications, including broadband connectivity.