

RESOLUTION No.7

adopted by the
First World Telecommunication Development Conference (WTDC)
 of the International Telecommunication Union (ITU), Buenos Aires, April 1994

Disaster Communications

The World Telecommunication Development Conference (Buenos Aires 1994),

noting

the Tampere Declaration on Disaster Communications, issued by the group of experts in communications and disaster management, participating in the Conference on Disaster Communications held in Tampere, Finland, on 20 - 22 May 1991, annexed to this resolution,

and noting further

- a) the support which the Tampere Declaration has received from numerous national, regional and international organisations,
- b) Resolution No. 209 (Mob-87) Study and Implementation of a Global Land and Maritime Distress Safety System by the World Administrative Radio Conference on Mobile Services, 1987,
- c) the studies carried out by the Study Groups of ITU-R in response to Resolution No. 209 (Mob-87),
- d) the scope of studies in study groups of ITU-T, relevant to disaster communications, and in particular in ITU-T SG I, SG II, SG III and SG IV,

recognising

- a) that disasters have caused and are likely to continue to cause severe human suffering, loss of human lives and damage to property and environment,
- b) that disasters may have particularly devastating consequences in developing countries,
- c) that disaster preparedness requires the existence of de-centralised means of communications such as, but not limited to, those provided by mobile and portable Satellite Terminals and by the Amateur Radio Services, to supplement the possibly vulnerable elements of the national, regional and global communications networks.

convinced

- a) that the fast and efficient flow of information is essential for disaster mitigation, prevention and preparedness, as well as for disaster relief,
- b) that telecommunications can play a vital role in restoring the continuity of the development progress,

concerned

- a) that the development process is disrupted in the event of a disaster,
- b) that disaster situations, as they occur, often affect or destroy existing telecommunications facilities,

resolves

to invite the ITU-R

- a) to continue studying, as a matter of priority, the technical, operational and regulatory aspects of radio communications for disaster mitigation and relief,

b) to consider recommending the inclusion, in the agenda of competent World Radio Communication Conference, of the consideration of Radio Regulations concerning Disaster Communications,

to invite the ITU-T to study, as a matter of priority,

- a) the means of facilitating efficient communications for disaster mitigation and relief,
- b) charging and accounting in domestic and international disaster communications, including waiver of charges and an appropriate tariff structure where appropriate,

instructs

the Director of the BDT to help developing countries, particularly the LDCs, to prepare their telecommunications services for the event of a disaster and to restore them in case of disruption by such an event,

further instructs

the Director of the BDT to help, within the framework of the International Decade for Natural Disaster Reduction, those developing countries which are particularly prone to natural disasters, in the development of early warning systems, using telecommunications, including broadcast services, through the special voluntary programme for technical co-operation,

requests

the Secretary General to work closely with the United Nations Department of Humanitarian Affairs, with a view to increase the Union's involvement in Disaster Communications,

further requests

the Secretary General, to communicate this resolution to the relevant international organisations,

invites

the United Nations Department of Humanitarian Affairs, to actively contribute, in close collaboration with the ITU and in particular with the BDT, to the further development and strengthening of the disaster communications capabilities of developing countries,

urges

administrations, to take all practicable steps for facilitating the rapid deployment and the effective use of telecommunications equipment for disaster relief by reducing and, where possible, removing regulatory barriers and strengthening transboundary co-operation between states.

RESOLUTION COM4/14

adopted by the
Plenipotentiary Conference (PP-94)
of the International Telecommunication Union (ITU), Kyoto, October 1994

Telecommunications for Disaster Mitigation and Disaster Relief Operations

The Plenipotentiary Conference of the International Telecommunication Union (Kyoto, 1994),

endorses

Resolution 7 of the World Telecommunication Development Conference (WTDC) (Buenos Aires, 1994) on disaster communications,

notes

the programme of action of the World Conference on Natural Disaster Reduction (Yokohama, May 1994),

recognizing

the importance of telecommunications for disaster mitigation and disaster relief operations,

considering

a) that the need for an international convention on disaster communications has been stated repeatedly, in particular in paragraphs 12 and 15 of the Tampere Declaration as annexed to WTDC Resolution 7;

b) that telecommunication technology and services can play an important role in disaster mitigation and disaster relief operations.

concerned

that in many cases regulatory barriers and the high cost of services limit the effective use of telecommunications for disaster mitigation and disaster relief operations,

instructs the Council

to address the issues of WTDC Resolution 7 and take appropriate action towards its implementation,

instructs the Secretary-General

to report to the Council at its 1995 session on the measures taken pursuant to WTDC Resolution 7,

urges administrations

to take all practical steps for facilitating the rapid deployment and the effective use of telecommunication equipment for disaster mitigation and for disaster relief operations by reducing and, where possible, removing regulatory barriers and strengthening transborder cooperation between States.