

RESOLUTION 26 (REV.WRC-19)

**Footnotes to the Table of Frequency Allocations in Article 5 of
the Radio Regulations**

The World Radiocommunication Conference (Sharm el-Sheikh, 2019),

considering

- a) that footnotes are an integral part of the Table of Frequency Allocations in the Radio Regulations and, as such, form part of an international treaty text;
- b) that footnotes to the Table of Frequency Allocations should be clear, concise and easy to understand;
- c) that footnotes should relate directly to matters of frequency allocation;
- d) that, in order to ensure that footnotes allow modification of the Table of Frequency Allocations without introducing unnecessary complications, principles relating to the use of footnotes are needed;
- e) that, currently, footnotes are adopted by competent world radiocommunication conferences (WRCs) and any addition, modification or deletion of a footnote is considered and adopted by the competent conference;
- f) that some problems concerning country footnotes may be resolved through the application of a special agreement envisaged by Article 6;
- g) that, in certain cases, administrations are confronted with major difficulties due to inconsistencies or omissions in footnotes;
- h) that, in order to keep the footnotes to the Table of Frequency Allocations up to date, there should be clear and effective guidelines for additions, modifications and deletions of footnotes,

noting

- a) that some footnotes have been developed and revised under relevant agenda items of WRCs, while footnotes which are not related to those agenda items were considered by previous WRCs, as described in Annex 1 to this Resolution, under the standing agenda item referred to in *further resolves 2*;
- b) that, under certain circumstances and on a purely exceptional basis, previous WRCs considered proposals for the addition of country names to existing footnotes which were not related to the case mentioned in *further resolves 1*;
- c) that previous conferences also received proposals for the addition of new country footnotes not related to any agenda items, and that these proposals were not accepted;
- d) that administrations need sufficient time to examine the potential consequences of changes to footnotes to the Table of Frequency Allocations;
- e) the importance of coordination between countries before a WRC to agree on changes related to country footnotes,

RES26-2

resolves

- 1 that, wherever possible, footnotes to the Table of Frequency Allocations should be confined to altering, limiting or otherwise changing the relevant allocations rather than dealing with the operation of stations, assignment of frequencies or other matters;
- 2 that the Table of Frequency Allocations should include only those footnotes which have international implications for the use of the radio-frequency spectrum;
- 3 that new footnotes to the Table of Frequency Allocations should only be adopted in order to:
 - a) achieve flexibility in the Table of Frequency Allocations;
 - b) protect the relevant allocations in the body of the Table and in other footnotes in accordance with Section II of Article 5;
 - c) introduce either transitional or permanent restrictions on a new service to achieve compatibility; or
 - d) meet the specific requirements of a country or area when it is impracticable to satisfy such needs otherwise within the Table of Frequency Allocations;
- 4 that footnotes serving a common purpose should be in a common format, and, where possible, be grouped into a single footnote with appropriate references to the relevant frequency bands,

further resolves

- 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);
- 2 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;
- 3 that in cases not covered by *further resolves* 1 and 2, proposals for new footnotes or modification of existing footnotes could exceptionally be considered by a WRC if they concern corrections of obvious omissions, inconsistencies, ambiguities or editorial errors and have been submitted to ITU as stipulated in No. 40 of the General Rules of conferences, assemblies and meetings of the Union,

urges administrations

- 1 to review footnotes periodically and to propose the deletion of their country footnotes or of their country names from footnotes, as appropriate;
- 2 to take account of *further resolves* above in making proposals to WRCs in relation to footnotes or country names in footnotes.

ANNEX 1 TO RESOLUTION 26 (REV.WRC-19)

Previous WRCs have recognized that the scope of the standing agenda item is only related to requests from administrations to delete their country footnotes or to have their country name deleted from footnotes, if no longer required. However, previous WRCs have also received proposals on the addition of country names to existing footnotes and on the addition of new country footnotes.

It is recognized that it is not the intention of WRCs to encourage the addition of country names to existing footnotes.

Taking into account the decisions of WRC-12, WRC-15 and WRC-19 on the same subject, it is suggested that future WRCs may apply a similar approach to previous WRCs.

Future WRCs may consider the following guidance derived from the above-mentioned decisions.

A) The work of WRC on proposals submitted under the standing agenda item described in *further resolves 2* of this Resolution may be based on the following:

- i) 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.
- ii) Should a WRC decide to accept submissions of additional proposals for the addition of country names to existing footnotes based on the proposals received, it may establish a deadline for such further contributions to WRC.
- iii) A deadline may also be established for proposals on the deletion of country names, if appropriate, taking into account that administrations require sufficient time to analyse the proposals.
- iv) Proposals for the addition of new country footnotes which are not related to agenda items of a WRC or cases described in *further resolves 1* of this Resolution should not be considered.

B) The proposals on additions of country names to existing footnotes or new country footnotes in the cases addressed by *further resolves 1* of this Resolution are to be treated in the committees responsible under the relevant agenda items, as appropriate.

Administrations are invited to submit their proposals under relevant agenda items.

Proposals for additions which do not fall within the categories referred to in *further resolves 1* of this Resolution may be considered by the WRC committee responsible for proposals submitted under the standing agenda item described in *further resolves 2* of this Resolution and are subject to the principles mentioned in A) above.

