

NATIONAL PREPARATORY COMMITTEE TOWARDS WRC-27 AGENDA ITEM BRIEF

Chapter: 5

Service: *All Radiocommunication Services (Cross-Service Agenda Item)*

Agenda Item: 8

Description of Agenda Item:

To consider and take appropriate action on requests from administrations to delete their country footnotes or to have their country name deleted from footnotes, if no longer required, taking into account Resolution 26 (Rev.WRC-23).

Focus: *Deletion of Country Footnotes*

The focus of AI 8 is the maintenance and updating of country footnotes contained in Article 5 of the Radio Regulations. Specifically, it addresses requests by administrations to:

- i. Delete national footnotes that are no longer needed
- ii. Remove a country's name from a multi-country footnote
- iii. Improve the accuracy and relevance of the Table of Frequency Allocations
- iv. Reduce unnecessary regulatory provisions that no longer reflect actual spectrum use.

Status of Studies

Unlike technical agenda items that require compatibility and sharing studies, AI 8 is primarily an administrative and regulatory review process. Activities undertaken during the WRC-27 preparatory cycle focus on the submission, verification and assessment of requests from administrations.

The status of these activities can be summarized as follows

- i. Agenda Item 8 is a standing WRC agenda item.
- ii. Unlike technical spectrum agenda items, it does not require ITU-R sharing or compatibility studies.
- iii. Requests are submitted directly by administrations through the established procedures of Resolution 26 (Rev.WRC-23).

- iv. The Radiocommunication Bureau compiles and circulates the requests for consideration by WRC-27.

Objective of the Studies

The overall objective of Agenda Item 8 is to ensure that country footnotes accurately reflect current national spectrum requirements and regulatory practices.

Specifically, the review process seeks to:

- i. Maintain an accurate and up-to-date Table of Frequency Allocations
- ii. Remove obsolete national regulatory provisions
- iii. Increase harmonization of spectrum allocations where possible
- iv. Simplify the Radio Regulations by eliminating unnecessary country-specific exceptions.

Studied Frequency Bands

Agenda Item 8 is not limited to any particular frequency band, as country footnotes may apply across a broad range of spectrum allocations.

Therefore:

- i. AI 8 is not frequency-band specific.
- ii. Any frequency band referenced by a country footnote may be affected.
- iii. The scope depends entirely on the footnotes identified by administrations for deletion or modification.

Methods to Satisfy the Agenda Item

The agenda item is addressed through an established administrative process that allows administrations to request changes to country footnotes in accordance with Resolution 26.

To facilitate this process, the following steps are typically undertaken:

- i. Submission of requests by administrations.
- ii. Verification that the footnote or country reference is no longer required.
- iii. Review of regulatory implications.
- iv. Consideration and approval by WRC-27.
- v. Modification of the relevant provisions in Article 5 of the Radio Regulations.

Regulatory and Technical Framework

The review of country footnotes is conducted within a well-defined regulatory framework that governs how such modifications may be proposed and adopted. The principal elements supporting this process include:

- i. Radio Regulations, particularly Article 5 (Frequency Allocations).
- ii. Resolution 26 (Rev.WRC-23) that highlights the procedures for deletion of country footnotes.
- iii. National spectrum management requirements of the requesting administrations.
- iv. Conference decisions adopted by WRC-27.

Interference Protection Mechanisms

Although AI 8 is primarily administrative in nature, any proposed deletion of a footnote must be carefully assessed to ensure that it does not adversely affect existing regulatory protections or spectrum-use arrangements. Accordingly:

- i. Existing interference protection criteria remain unchanged unless specifically affected by the deletion of a footnote.
- ii. Requests are assessed to ensure that removal of a footnote does not adversely affect existing services or international obligations.
- iii. The underlying allocation and protection framework of the Radio Regulations remains intact.

Technical and Regulatory Challenges

Several regulatory considerations must be addressed before approving changes to country footnotes. The principal challenges include:

- i. Determining whether a footnote is genuinely no longer required.
 - ii. Assessing potential consequences for national spectrum management.
 - iii. Ensuring that deletion does not unintentionally remove necessary regulatory flexibility.
 - iv. Coordinating among administrations where a footnote applies to multiple countries.
 - v. Maintaining consistency throughout the Radio Regulations after modifications.
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Conclusion

WRC-27 Agenda Item 8 is a regulatory housekeeping item aimed at maintaining the accuracy and relevance of country footnotes in the Radio Regulations. It does not involve new spectrum allocations, sharing studies or technical compatibility analysis. It provides a mechanism for administrations to remove obsolete national provisions thereby improving the clarity, consistency and efficiency of the international regulatory framework.