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JOINT IMO/ITU EXPERTS GROUP ON MARITIME RADIOCOMMUNICATION MATTERS
12th session
Agenda item 5

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CONSIDERATION OF THE OUTCOME OF WRC-15 AND PREPARATION OF INITIAL ADVICE ON A DRAFT IMO POSITION ON WRC-19 AGENDA ITEMS CONCERNING MATTERS RELATING TO MARITIME SERVICES

New maritime agenda items to be considered at WRC-19

Submitted by the United States

SUMMARY	
Executive summary:	This document reviews the outcomes of WRC 15 on maritime issues; and sets out new maritime agenda items to be considered at WRC-19. The Joint IMO/ITU Experts Group is asked to consider actions supporting ITU activity on the relevant agenda items.
Action to be taken:	Paragraphs 5, 6 and 7
Related documents:	Resolution 359 (REV.WRC-15), Resolution 360 (REV.WRC-15) and Resolution 362 (WRC-15)

INTRODUCTION

1 In November 2015, the ITU hosted the World Radiocommunication Conference 2015 in Geneva, Switzerland. Attended by 3300 representatives from 162 ITU Member States, and 500 non-government observers, the Conference was chaired by Mr. Festus Yusufu Narai Daudu of Nigeria. WRC-15 addressed over 40 topics related to frequency allocation and frequency sharing for the efficient use of spectrum and orbital resources.

DISCUSSION

Outcomes - Maritime Issues

Search and rescue

2 WRC-15 reinforced protection to Search and Rescue beacons that transmit in the 406-406.1 MHz frequency band signals to uplink to search and rescue satellites, such as the Cospas-Sarsat system. Resolution 205 was modified to ensure that frequency drift characteristics of radiosondes are taken into account when operating above 405 MHz to avoid drifting close to 406 MHz. Administrations are requested to avoid making new frequency assignments for the mobile and fixed services within the adjacent frequency bands to prevent interference in the frequency band 406-406.1 MHz.

Enhanced maritime communications systems

WRC-15 considered regulatory provisions and frequency allocations to enable new Automatic Identification System (AIS) applications and other possible new applications to improve maritime radiocommunication. New applications for data exchange, using AIS technology, are intended to improve the safety of navigation. New allocations were made in the bands 161.9375-161.9625 MHz and 161.9875-162.0125 MHz to the maritime mobile-satellite service. Studies will continue on the compatibility between maritime mobile-satellite service (MMSS) in the downlink in the band 161.7875-161.9375 MHz and incumbent services in the same and adjacent frequency bands.

Future Agenda Items – Maritime Issues

3 WRC-15 also developed two agenda items for consideration at WRC-19. These included:

> *Agenda Item 1.8* to consider possible regulatory actions to support Global Maritime Distress Safety Systems (GMDSS) modernization and to support the introduction of additional satellite systems into the GMDSS, in accordance with Resolution 359 (Rev.WRC 15);
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> and
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> *Agenda item 1.9* to consider, based on the results of ITU R studies:
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> > *1.9.1* regulatory actions within the frequency band 156-162.05 MHz for autonomous maritime radio devices to protect the GMDSS and automatic identifications system (AIS), in accordance with Resolution 362 (WRC 15);
> >
> > *1.9.2* modifications of the Radio Regulations, including new spectrum allocations to the maritime mobile-satellite service (Earth to space and space-to-Earth), preferably within the frequency bands 156.0125-157.4375 MHz and 160.6125-162.0375 MHz of Appendix 18, to enable a new VHF data exchange system (VDES) satellite component, while ensuring that this component will not degrade the current terrestrial VDES components, applications specific messages (ASM) and AIS operations and not impose any additional constraints on existing services in these and adjacent frequency bands as stated in *recognizing d)* and *e)* of Resolution 360 (Rev.WRC 15);

4 After WRC-15 concluded, the first Conference Preparatory Meeting (CPM19-1) was convened and established the working structure for ITU studies in preparation for WRC-19.

ACTION REQUESTED OF THE EXPERTS GROUP

5 The Joint IMO/ITU Experts Group is invited to note the outcomes of WRC-15.

6 With regard to agenda item 1.8, the IMO should recommend the position to support the inclusion of new GMDSS operators' frequencies into Appendix 15, which lists frequencies for use in the GMDSS.

7 With regard to agenda item 1.9, the Experts Group is requested to note the ongoing studies within WP 5B on this matter.