

**PCC.II/REC. 59 (XXX-17) <sup>1</sup>**

**SPECTRUM USE OF THE FREQUENCY RANGE 470-698 MHZ  
BY THE BROADCASTING SERVICE**

The 30th Meeting of the Permanent Consultative Committee II: Radiocommunications (PCC.II),

**CONSIDERING:**

a) That terrestrial television broadcasting is one of the most important and efficient mass communications media for delivering news, information, cultural programs, and entertainment free of charge to the general public;

b) That terrestrial broadcasting combines a number of relevant features such as universal coverage, ability to efficiently provide national, regional and local content and advertising, a very large receiver base, flexibility, technical and cost efficiency, provision of information in normal and emergency situations, and the potential for further development;

c) That the application of digital technology to broadcasting provides consistent service quality of images and sound, lower operating costs, improved system reliability, increased program diversity, portability interactivity and a more efficient use of the radio spectrum;

d) That terrestrial broadcasting networks have a long life cycle, and a stable regulatory environment is necessary to provide protection of investment and to encourage future development of the service;

e) That the time-frame and the transition period from analogue to digital television are not the same for all countries of the Region;

f) That despite the fact that there are countries that have implemented and that many have still to implement analogue switch-off, some are already considering the future options for the further development of DTTB, *e.g.*, UHD TV;

g) That the frequency band 470-694/698 MHz, or portions thereof, is the only band that is still harmonized and used on a global scale for over-the-air broadcast television;

h) That, in many countries, there is a need for making significant investments during the next decade for finalizing the migration of broadcasting (television) system stations that are above 698 MHz into the frequency band below 698 MHz and for the implementation of next generation broadcasting technologies.

**CONSIDERING FURTHER:**

a) That the thematic report “Freedom of Expression Standards for the Transition to a Diverse,

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<sup>1</sup> CCP II-2017-30-4497r2\_i

Plural and Inclusive Free-to-Air Digital Television”, included in the 2014 Annual Report of the Office of the Special Rapporteur for Freedom of Expression of the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights of OAS, states that in many countries in the region, free-to-air television continues to be the main means of receiving information and entertainment, and that the arrival of digital television expands the quantity and quality of these services that can lead to a significant increase in the information and opinions people receive, especially those who do not have the financial means to pay for subscription TV services;

b) That the Recommendation ITU-R BT.1774-2 (Use of satellite and terrestrial broadcast infrastructures for public warning, disaster mitigation and relief) and the Report ITU-R BT.2299-2 (Broadcasting for public warning, disaster mitigation and relief) provides a compilation of supporting evidence that broadcasting plays a critically important role in disseminating information to the public in times of emergencies;

c) That the Report ITU-R BT.2207-2 (Accessibility to broadcasting services for persons with disabilities) describes accessibility features of broadcasting service;

d) That the Report ITU-R BT.2387-0 (Spectrum/frequency requirements for bands allocated to broadcasting on a primary basis) informs, based on the responses of a Questionnaire sent to the ITU membership, that the band primarily used by DTTB after the analogue switch-off and channel restacking will be within 470-694/698 MHz;

e) That the same Report informs that the majority of countries have or plan to introduce new and enhanced broadcast services (HDTV/UHDTV);

f) That the Report ITU-R BT.2343-2 (Collection of field trials of UHDTV over DTT networks) presents a compilation of field experiments, carried out by some countries, of UHDTV transmission over digital terrestrial broadcasting, demonstrating the feasibility of these systems.

## **RECOGNIZING:**

a) That the Broadcasting Service is allocated on a primary basis in the frequency bands 470-608 MHz and 614-698 MHz throughout Region 2;

b) That there are additional allocations to the Fixed and Mobile Services on a primary basis in these frequency bands or portions thereof in some countries from Region 2 (as per ITU RR footnotes **5.292**, **5.293**, **5.297**, **5.308** and **5.309**), however, these allocations are subject to agreement obtained under No. 9.21;

c) That, as per the ITU RR footnote **5.295**, in the Bahamas, Barbados, Canada, the United States and Mexico, the frequency band 470-608 MHz, or portions thereof, is identified for International Mobile Telecommunications (IMT);

d) That, as per the ITU RR footnote **5.308A** in the Bahamas, Barbados, Belize, Canada, Colombia, the United States and Mexico, the frequency band 614-698 MHz, or portions thereof, is identified for International Mobile Telecommunications (IMT);

e) That mobile service stations of the IMT system within the frequency bands 470-608 MHz and 614-698 MHz are subject to agreement obtained under RR No. **9.21** and shall not cause harmful interference to, or claim protection from, the broadcasting service of neighboring countries.

**RECOMMENDS:**

1. That CITEL Member States promote, as fast as possible, the technology transition from analogue to digital terrestrial television, to benefit from the effective and efficient use of the radio spectrum by the Broadcasting Service within the frequency range 470-698 MHz;

2. That CITEL Member States, when planning the use of spectrum within the frequency range 470-698 MHz, take the appropriate measures to protect the Broadcasting Service and not to constrain its future development and technological evolution.