



DAKAR DECLARATION

03RD JUNE 2022

We, participants in the thirteenth (13th) Ordinary General Assembly of the African Union of Broadcasting (AUB), on the theme: “The role of African media in disaster risk management”,

Considering, the insights and advocacy deployed during this general assembly, during a Symposium on the challenges of the World Radio Communication Conference 2023 (WRC 23), scheduled for November 2023 in Abu Dhabi, to harmonize and consolidate the position of the on “NO CHANGE” for the protection of the remaining part of the UHF band for broadcasting.

Endorsing, the conclusions of the workshop on “The Future of UHF Spectrum for Broadcasting” and the African Union of Broadcasting (AUB) Preparatory Meeting for the 2023 International Telecommunication Union (ITU) World Radio Communication Conference CMR-23), held in Dakar, Senegal, from April 12 to 13, 2022,

Acknowledge, the efforts made by the African Union of Broadcasting (AUB) in organizing the April 2022 workshop, in cooperation with the European Broadcasting Union (EBU) and Broadcast Networks Europe (BNE),

Reaffirm, our commitment as public broadcasters to cooperate to empower the sons and daughters of the continent through universal access to high quality programming across Africa,

Reaffirm, the vision of the African Union of Broadcasting to bring together African broadcasters and partners to enable them to contribute to the improvement of the quality of life and to give the true image of the continent,

Aware that terrestrial broadcasting is the main distribution platform in Africa that provides free television, universal coverage and high reliability,

Aware that decisions affecting the use of the Ultra High Frequency, UHF (470-694 MHz) band used for terrestrial television in ITU Region 1 (Africa, Europe, Middle East) will be discussed and taken at the next World Radio Communication Conference in 2023 (WRC-23) under point 1.5 of the agenda,

Noting, that during the preparatory discussions for WRC-23, it was suggested that a co-primary allocation for the mobile service in the band 470-694 MHz in Region 1 be introduced alongside the primary current for the broadcasting service,

Noting, that Digital Terrestrial Television (DTT) uses the UHF frequency band 470-694 MHz (the band below 700 MHz) for TV broadcasting, which is the only UHF spectrum available for broadcasting, after the release of the 800 MHz and 700 MHz for use by the mobile service.

Noting, that DTT cannot sustain any further reduction or release of available spectrum if it is to continue to operate and develop further,

Noting, that the proposed modification for an additional allocation to mobile services reflects a purely commercial orientation to the detriment of the public interest in universal access to broadcasting services,

Welcomes the position of ITU Region 1 broadcasters that there should be "No Change" in ITU terminology to the current Primary allocation of the 470- 694 MHz at WRC-23.

Therefore, having reviewed the facts and analyzed the impact of further spectrum reduction for UHF broadcast, in the band below 700 MHz, hereby:

Declare our resolve to make every effort to raise awareness and generate support for a "No Change" position under WRC-23 agenda item 1.5, and to seek the support of the AUB to do so,

Adopt unanimously the "No Change" position with regard to item 1.5 of the ITU WRC-23 agenda,

Recommend to the AUB to seek support for this position from the current Chairman of the African Union,

Recommend, the AUB to continue cooperating with other broadcasting organizations regarding ITU WRC-23 agenda item 1.5,

Recommend, the AUB to develop deeper cooperation with other broadcasting organizations to support the development of public broadcasting in Africa and beyond,

Recommend to the members of the AUB to sensitize political decision-makers on the high risks of weakening the public audiovisual sector by successive reduction of the frequency bands allocated to terrestrial broadcasters and to services ancillary to the distribution and production of content.

Encourage AUB members to attend the 3rd African Telecommunications Union, ATU, African Preparatory Meeting in September 2022 in Zambia (ATU-APM 3), and organize a side event at the International Broadcasting Convention, IBC in September 2022,

Encourage the members of the AUB to improve their representation within the national regulatory authorities responsible for frequency management and ensure that the regulators defend the position of "No Change" for point 1.5 of the agenda during the preparations regional and international WRC-23.

Hereby decide to create a self-constituted ad-hoc action group under the auspices of the AUB, to follow up on the conclusions of this declaration,

Decide, that the action group will be organized on the basis of the volunteering of members of the AUB

with the following initial composition:

- South Africa (Angola will solicit contributions from Namibia, etc.)
- West Africa (Senegal, Ghana, Ivory Coast, Liberia, Niger, Guinea Conakry, Benin: Senegal will be leader)
- East Africa (Rwanda, Kenya and Uganda: Rwanda will be leader)
- North Africa: Algeria (leader, will solicit other countries in the region)
- Central Africa (Cameroon, Gabon)
- Rapporteur (AUB)

Decide that the action group will seek a mandate from other broadcasters in their respective regions, and cooperate with broadcasters in the region in favor of a "No Change" position.

Dakar, Senegal June 03, 2022

Adopted by acclamation

(cf. Attendance list).