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UNOSAT position on the WRC-07 Agenda

1. Introduction

UNOSAT is the United Nations Institute for Training and Research (UNITAR) Operational Satellite Applications Programme implemented in co-operation with the UN Office for Project Services (UNOPS). It was created in 2001 to provide the international community and developing countries with enhanced access to satellite imagery and Geographic Information System (GIS) services. These tools are used mainly in humanitarian relief, disaster prevention and post crisis reconstruction.

2. General Comments

UNOSAT relies on satellite for imagery and earth observation, and is now moving towards using satellite as a key communications infrastructure for disaster-/ crisis-struck areas as well. Satellite communications play a critical role in establishing links for relief agencies & aid workers and they provide an instant infrastructure enabling logistics support, telemedicine, media coverage, simple communications between families as well as continuity of business. In order for satellite communications to play their crucial role in humanitarian, emergency and recovery work, the uninterrupted access to a limited yet crucial set of radio spectrum bands is vital. Today UNOSAT seeks to disseminate satellite imagery to crisis regions where other infrastructures have been destroyed or rendered useless. Satellite not only enables basic voice and data communications services for victims, but also enables the circulation of live images between governmental and private organizations *all* over the world in order to monitor the evolution of crises in real time and to coordinate effective response.

3. UNOSAT position on Agenda Item 1.4

Priority regions for UNOSAT activities include (but are by no means limited to) Central America, Central Africa and South-East Asia. These regions are primary beneficiaries of aid work as well as primary users of satellite communications using radiofrequencies from C-band for the reception of signals by earth stations (downlinks), in the whole 3400-4200 MHz. It has been extensively demonstrated that sharing this band with terrestrial systems of the so-called

'IMT' family would be detrimental to satellites to the point that communications may be easily disrupted. Interference of satellite signals has actually occurred in some countries of these regions where national administrations have enabled Broadband Wireless Access or Wimax to transmit into the C-band.

UNOSAT cannot agree that a proven & existing communications infrastructure that is *today* relied upon for a variety of uses including aid & emergency work by vast communities of people the world over, including governmental agencies, should be directly threatened by such uncertain commercial prospects invoked by only a few countries.

UNOSAT is therefore contrary to any worldwide identification of IMT in the band 3400-4200 MHz that is so essential to the distribution of images, sounds and data by satellite around to the globe.
