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ICAO WRC-27 Preparatory Workshop
Agenda item 9.2: GMDSS

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Background

- Agenda Item 9.2 addresses the difficulties and inconsistencies encountered in the application of the Radio Regulations, in this case, specifically concerning the Global Maritime Distress and Safety System (GMDSS). WRC-23 provisionally identified the frequency bands 1 614.4225-1 618.725 MHz (Option 1) and 1 616.3-1 620.38 MHz (Option 2) for geostationary satellite networks in the GMDSS.
- The issue arises because the higher frequency Option 2 overlaps an operational Aeronautical Mobile-Satellite (Route) Service (AMS(R)S) system. Additionally, the notifying administration of the GMDSS system has made no progress in coordination efforts, risking the removal of the provisional allocation if no action is taken before WRC-27.

Potential Issues

- Lack of coordination by the notifying administration, preventing progress in making the provisional spectrum allocation permanent.
- Overlap between Option 2 (1 616.3-1 620.38 MHz) and an operational AMS(R)S band, which is critical for aviation safety communications.
- Reports of interference from the notifying administration's system throughout the 1 610-1 626.5 MHz band.
- The possibility that an administration could move to remove the provisional allocation if coordination is not completed.
- A potential request at WRC-27 to extend the provisional allocation, though attendees may have little patience for further delays.

ICAO Position

- *Note.— If coordination under Resolution **365** (WRC-23) has been successfully completed, then ICAO has the following position.*
- To ensure that any decision at WRC-27 following report from the Director of the BR requested by Resolution **365** (WRC-23), would not have negative impact on AMS(R)S in the frequency band 1 610-1 626.5 MHz.

Conclusion

- ICAO's position is contingent on the successful conclusion of coordination by the notifying administration.
- If coordination is not completed by WRC-27, there is a possibility that the provisional allocation of WRC-23 is removed.
- Note: China has yet to engage in coordination with potentially affected systems.
- Regardless of the outcome with respect to GMDSS identification, entities have reported interference presumably caused by the notifying administration's system.

Thank You

