

Broadcasting Spectrum Protection and Harmful Interference

Out-of-the Box Solutions

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Agenda

- Why do we need to protect Broadcasting Spectrum
- Enough Spectrum for mobile communication
- A solution to slow the greed for additional spectrum for IMT
- Reasons behind harmful interference
- Steps taken by Regional and International bodies
- Escalation and possible solutions

Broadcasting Spectrum Protection



- Broadcasting is still the most economical way to reach the masses
- No limit on the number of receivers
- Main reason to request more spectrum is to deliver audiovisual content
- Broadcasting is environmentally friendly
- Broadcasters concerns are not well addressed in WRCs

Spectrum for IMT

- Request for additional spectrum in all bands :
 - UHF, L-Band, S-band, C-band
- Largely driven by commercial interests
- Welcomed by Telecom Regulators and Governments Treasuries
- Little consideration to the public
- Who is going to bear the cost of existing networks and equipment?
- Co-existence of IMT and broadcast services is not realistic

A Possible Solution

- Not enough to keep the issue within ITU quarters
- Campaigns for public awareness
- Push the issue to parliamentary bodies
- Engage Civil Societies
- Engage United Nations Institutions

Harmful Interference

- Defined in RR as :“Interference which endangers the functioning of a radionavigation service or of other safety services or seriously degrades, obstructs or repeatedly interrupts a radiocommunication service operating in accordance with the Radio Regulations.”
- Two types :
 - Unintended (UII) - driven by lack of knowledge
 - Intended (II) - driven by political agendas and retaliation
- II Has increased in recent years because of more conflicts in different regions of the world

Steps taken by International Bodies

- **The ITU Radio Regulations Board (RRB) applies the relevant regulatory provisions :**
 - Appeals to administrations to exercise the utmost good will and mutual assistance
 - Raises awareness of the issues
 - Considers that international cooperation for monitoring and localization of the sources of interference is desirable
- WBU-ISOG requested all broadcasters to implement Carrier ID
- All these actions have no teeth

Escalation of the Problem

- Continue to take actions within ITU relevant bodies
- Address the issue on regional and international levels
 - Introduce national laws that prohibit and penalise II
 - Bilateral coordination among affected countries
 - Regional Organisations (EU, Arab League, OIC ...) to adopt directives prohibiting II
- The World Broadcasting Unions (WBU) should play a stronger role on the policy level
- Enforce Carrier ID by law (Regulatory action)
- Implement the “International Interference Register (IIR)”

International Interference Register (IIR)

- Identify reliable entities around the world that can monitor harmful interference
- Interference is monitored by number and duration within the geography of individual countries
- An international body (ITU?) collects the interference data and publish them on a monthly basis
- Countries that exceed a certain agreed limit get reported to the UN (Gen Assembly or Sec Council)
- A scheme of gradual sanctions to be applied on countries that 'host' harmful interference over certain levels



Thanks for your attention

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