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North American Broadcasters Association

SUPPORT FOR ITALY AND VATICAN CITY STATE ON THE PROPOSAL TO CHANGE THE TITLE OF RECOMMENDATION ITU-R BT.1895

The North American Broadcasters Association (NABA, www.nabanet.com) is an association of broadcasters in Canada, Mexico and the United States, and the NABA Technical Committee is its standing technical body. NABA is thus in a position to present the technical viewpoints of the most authoritative association of professional North American Broadcasters in television and sound programme production, post-production, and distribution for terrestrial, satellite, and cable broadcasting.

NABA is a Sector Member of ITU-R and a long-time participant in ITU-R Study Groups, Working Parties, Task Groups, Rapporteur Groups, etc. NABA numbers among its members Chairmen, Vice-Chairmen and members of the above groups. NABA also participates widely in the ITU work on radio, television and multimedia services.

Annex 3 to Document 6A/170 proposes a change in the title of Recommendation ITU-R BT.1895.

The current title of Recommendation ITU-R BT.1895 is “Protection criteria for terrestrial broadcasting systems”, and the new proposed title is “Guidelines to assess the effect of radiations and emissions into terrestrial broadcasting systems”.

We have strong reservations on this proposal:

- 1) Recommendation ITU-R BT.1895 was approved in May 2011. That approval indicated that no ITU Administration was opposed to the approval. It would be unusual that Recommendation ITU-R BT.1895 should now require such an important revision as a change in its very title.
- 2) Labelling a Recommendation with the term “Guidelines” in its title is also quite unusual for Recommendations in the purview of Study Group 6. There are only four ITU-R Recommendations in the purview Study Group 6 that are labelled that way. They are all listed below:
 - a) Recommendation ITU-R BS.1423 – Guidelines for producing multichannel soundtracks using surround matrix techniques;
 - b) Recommendation ITU-R BT.1689 – Guidelines on the presentation in large-screen digital imagery environments of programmes that are provided in image formats conforming to Recommendation ITU-R BT.601;

- c) Recommendation ITU-R BT.1845 – Guidelines on metrics to be used when tailoring television programmes to broadcasting applications at various image quality levels, display sizes and aspect ratios;
- d) Recommendation ITU-R BT.2026 – Guidelines on the implementation of systems for in-service measurement and monitoring of “perceptual transparency” for the distribution chain of SDTV and HDTV programmes.

It will be realised that all those Recommendations describe recommended operating practices for the “tailoring” or distribution of broadcast programs. They have nothing to do with the protection of the broadcasting service.

- 3) Indeed, the purpose of Recommendation ITU-R BT.1895 is not to describe preferred operating practices for the tailoring or distribution of broadcast programs. Its purpose is to specify trigger values for the total interference at the receiver from all radiations and emissions without a corresponding frequency allocation in the Radio Regulations total interference at the broadcasting receiver, with a corresponding co-primary frequency allocation, and to clarify that, when the total interference at the receiver exceeds the relevant trigger value, compatibility studies on the effect of radiations and emissions from other applications and services into the broadcasting service should be undertaken.
Thus, the proposed labelling of “Guidelines” for the content of Recommendation ITU-R BT.1895 is not appropriate, because that term is used with a different connotation in other existing ITU-R Recommendations in the purview of Study Group 6.
- 4) In conclusion, we recall that the proposal to change the title of Recommendation ITU-R BT.1895 was discussed on the occasion of the last meeting of Working Party 6A, and on that occasion a Sector Member and four Administrations opposed it from the floor.

We wish to advise Working Party 6A that we oppose the proposal to change to the title of Recommendation ITU-R BT.1895. Indeed we believe that the current title describes the purpose of the Recommendation in a correct and concise way and it should not be changed.
