

APWPT PRESS RELEASE

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TELEVISION BROADCASTERS and APWPT SEEK CERTAINTY OF FUTURE SPECTRUM ASSIGNMENTS



The International Telecommunications Union in Geneva Switzerland, is the United Nations specialized agency for information and communication technologies which allocates radio spectrum and satellite orbits globally and develops the technical standards that ensure networks and technologies can be accessed, worldwide.

World radiocommunication conferences (WRC) are held every three to four years. It is the job of WRC to review, and, if necessary, revise the [Radio Regulations](#), the international treaty governing the use of the radio-frequency spectrum and the geostationary-satellite and non-geostationary-satellite orbits. Revisions are made on the basis of an agenda determined by the [ITU Council](#), which takes into account recommendations made by previous world radiocommunication conferences.

The general scope of the agenda of world radiocommunication conferences is established four to six years in advance, with the final agenda set by the ITU Council two years before the conference, with the concurrence of a majority of Member States.

Within the Agenda Items of the World Radio Conference is the possibility of the re-allocation of further spectrum used for terrestrial television broadcasting to more mobile telephone services.

The findings of a recently published international study, Report BT.2387¹, in which many countries took part from across the World indicates:

- of the amount of radio spectrum allocated to digital terrestrial television is significantly less than other radiocommunications services,
- after the World Radio Conferences in 2007 and 2012 digital television lost a significant amount of spectrum;
- the study notes that several countries are already considering the future options for the further development of digital television e.g., High Definition Television and Ultra High Definition Television;
- considerable investment has been contributed to the provision of digital television in many countries and extensive networks have been deployed in some countries.

In addition, APWPT notes that, for decades, broadcast and wireless production tools used for content and event production, such as wireless microphones and in-ear monitor systems, have efficiently shared the same spectrum. Therefore, when broadcast spectrum is reallocated it also undermines content creation.

Matthias Fehr, President of APWPT, says “Television broadcasters and the APWPT are seeking certainty with regards to the existing UHF broadcast spectrum allocation, both for current and new television, sound and multimedia broadcasting systems operating in the bands allocated to the broadcasting service. Any further reduction in the current allocation will have grave consequences for content creation, broadcasters and ultimately, millions of citizens and consumers.”

¹ ITU-R Report BT.2387 Spectrum/frequency requirements for bands allocated to broadcasting on a primary basis - <http://www.itu.int/pub/R-REP-BT.2387-2015>