

PCC.III/REC.24 (VI-96)

**IMPROVEMENTS OF DISASTER COMMUNICATIONS
IN THE AMERICAS**

The Sixth Meeting of the Permanent Consultative Committee III: Radiocommunications,

CONSIDERING:

- a) The Tampere Declaration, on Disaster Communications (Tampere, Finland, 1991);
- b) The PTC.III/RES.5 (II-93), Communications in Emergency Situations;
- c) The Resolution No. 7 (WTDC-94, Buenos Aires), on Disaster Communications;
- d) The Resolution 36 (PP-94, Kyoto), Telecommunications for Disaster Mitigation and Disaster Relief Operations;
- e) The Recommendation ITU-R M.1042, Disaster Communications in the Amateur and Amateur-Satellite Service;
- f) The Question ITU-R 209/8, Contributions of the Mobile and Amateur Services and Associated Satellite Services to the Improvement of Disaster Communications;
- g) The Draft Convention on the Provision of Telecommunication Resources for Disaster Mitigation and Relief Operations, to be held in Switzerland in early 1997 (1996 ITU Council Doc. 53);
- h) The Declaration of Principles and the Plan of Action for the Americas (Senior Telecommunication Officials Meeting, Washington, DC, September 1996);
- j) The ITU-R Document 8A/TEMP/32, Improvement of Disaster Communication in the Mobile, Amateur and Associated Satellite Services (November, 1996);
- k) The UN Working Group on Emergency Telecommunications Workshop (Port-of-Spain, Trinidad, November 1996),
- l) That at the IVth meeting of COM/CITEL in November, 1996, an ad hoc Working Group on the preparations for the ITU 1998 World Telecommunication Development Conference (WTDC-98) was established and Emergency telecommunications was identified as one of the issues to be addressed by this Ad Hoc Working Group.

RECOGNIZING:

That the countries of the Americas frequently experience hurricanes, earthquakes, floods, tornados, volcanic eruptions and other natural disasters throughout the Americas requiring use of disaster communications,

RECOMMENDS:

1. That each country develop a consolidated national disaster preparedness plan to identify resources capable of providing emergency communication, outline steps needed to mitigate damage to such resources, establish means of providing temporary service, and make provisions for disaster recovery;
2. That Memoranda of Understanding (MOUs) in support of the national plan be exchanged between government and non-government organizations, including regional cooperation;

3. That disaster communication networks be exercised regularly at national and regional levels under simulated emergency conditions, including links to hurricane centers and the regional emergency centers;
4. That reports of strengths, weaknesses and suggested improvements resulting from such exercises be distributed to interested parties;
5. That the amateur and amateur-satellite services be recognized as particularly useful during the initial period following a natural disaster to exchange disaster relief messages and subsequently exchange disaster welfare inquiry messages on behalf of concerned relatives and friends of the people in the affected area;
6. That land mobile resources be strengthened to assist in disaster relief communications;
7. That mobile-satellite and fixed-satellite earth stations be integrated in the national plan;
8. That CITEL members consider means of roaming and free circulation of equipment and operators in support of disaster communications using the benefit of the OAS International Amateur Radio Permit (IARP), the Draft Convention on the Provision of Telecommunication Resources for Disaster Mitigation and Relief Operations, and draft Global Mobile Personal Communications Systems MOU (GMPCS) being developed following the 1996 World Telecommunication Policy Forum.
9. That CITEL in cooperation with ITU, IARU and other organizations prepare a workshop for participation of telecommunications administrations, the national organizations for emergency management, and national amateur radio organizations to achieve improved disaster communications preparedness.

