PCC.I/RES. 131 (XII-08) [1]

EMERGENCY TELECOMMUNICATIONS SERVICE (ETS) AND INTERCONNECTION FRAMEWORK FOR NATIONAL IMPLEMENTATIONS OF ETS

The XII Meeting of the Permanent Consultative Committee I: Telecommunications,

CONSIDERING:

a) That emergency telecommunications is a critical area for all countries of the region, especially those with fragile economies;

b) That a number of countries in the region have introduced measures and are taking decisions designed to enhance public security, promoting and urging the rapid implementation of a nationwide emergency telecommunications services infrastructure in a well-coordinated and transparent manner;

c) That some of the countries of the region might have already implemented an Emergency Telecommunications Service (ETS);

d) That ETS users in a member state may need to contact with ETS users of other member states,

NOTING:

a) That the United Nations and its agencies are actively coordinating international activities relating to early warning, disaster relief and prevention (*e.g.*, the Working Group on Emergency Communications of OCHA);

b) That the Tampere Convention provides a process for implementation of "emergency communications" on an international basis;

c) That Resolution 136 of the ITU's Plenipotentiary Conference (Antalya, 2006**)** calls for the use of telecommunications/information and communication technologies for monitoring and management in emergency and disaster situations for early warning, prevention, mitigation and relief; which underlines that an international standard for communication on alert and warning information can assist in the provision of effective and appropriate humanitarian assistance and in mitigating the consequences of disasters, in particular in developing countries,

RECOGNIZING:

a) That the ETS national implementation of a member state may need to be interconnected to the ETS national implementations of another member state, using an international network through a traditional gateway;

b) That ITU-T Recommendation E.107 defines Emergency Telecommunications Service (ETS) and interconnection framework for national implementations of ETS, which aims to provide guidance for bilateral/multilateral agreements between countries,

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[1] CCP.I-TEL/doc. 1337/08 rev.1

RESOLVES:

To endorse ITU-T Recommendation E.107 "Emergency Telecommunications Service (ETS) and interconnection framework for national implementations of ETS", with no deletions, additions or modifications.

INSTRUCTS THE RAPPORTEUR GROUP ON STANDARDS COORDINATION:

To continue to monitor ETS national implementations (ENIs) and their interconnections with other ENIs for the Americas as this work evolves.

ANNEX TO RESOLUTION PCC.I/RES.131 (XII-08)

SUMMARY

A Standards Coordination Document is proposed which addresses ITU-T Recommendation E.107 "Emergency Telecommunications Service (ETS) and interconnection framework for national implementations of ETS". This Recommendation addresses the potential for bilateral/multilateral agreement between cooperating countries/administrations to link their respective Emergency Telecommunications Service (ETS) systems. In addition, this Recommendation provides guidance that will enable telecommunications between one ETS national implementation (ENI) and another ENI, in addition to providing a description of ETS.

STANDARDS COORDINATION DOCUMENT (CSD)

EMERGENCY TELECOMMUNICATIONS SERVICE (ETS) AND INTERCONNECTION FRAMEWORK FOR NATIONAL IMPLEMENTATIONS OF ETS

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Canadian contribution CCP.I-TEL/doc. 1106/07 to Permanent Consultative Committee I (PCC.I) XI meeting referred to the importance of the Emergency Telecommunications Service (ETS) and the standards related work in the different Standards Development Organizations (SDOs). The contribution then, recommended that the PCC.I Working Group on Technology works on this subject.

ITU-T Recommendation E.107 describes the ETS and provides guidance that will enable telecommunications between one ETS National Implementation (ENI) and another ENI. It also considers a potential for bilateral/multi-lateral agreement between cooperating countries/Administrations to link their respective ETS systems

This CSD proposes that ITU-T Recommendation E.107, approved on February 2007 by ITU-T Study Group 2, be endorsed by the PCC.I for the region of the Americas.

BACKGROUND

Emergency Telecommunications Service (ETS) has been or is being developed and implemented by some countries and, although these implementations are based on national choices, since emergency situations

can go beyond geographic boundaries, some countries/administrations may decide to have bilateral or multilateral agreements to link their respective ETS national implementations (ENIs).

ITU-T Recommendation E.107 defines ETS, ETS users, and Priority Treatment Capabilities.

The Working Group on Standards Coordination (WGSC) started to study Emergency Telecommunications Service at the XVI PCC.I meeting in Montevideo, Uruguay in May 2002. In addition, Section 9 of the Technical Notebook "Next Generation Networks Standards Overview" (CCP.I-TEL/doc. 1206/07) provides a comprehensive description of ETS.

Emergency Telecommunications Service (ETS)

An ETS is a national implementation service (i.e. each country/administration decides on its implementation of the ETS) that uses the features, facilities and applications of national public telecommunication networks and the services offered by them. It should provide priority telecommunications to its authorized users in times of crisis or emergencies.

The ETS is considered a supplementary service because it can only exist if there is already an established telecommunication service.

ETS User

An ETS user needs to be authorized to obtain priority telecommunications in national and/or international emergency situations in order to initiate ETS calls or sessions using the normal telecommunication terminals.

Priority treatment capabilities

These are capabilities that give priority in the use of telecommunications network resources, so that they will provide a higher probability of end-to-end telecommunications and use of telecommunication applications. The signaling, routing, operation and management, and traffic control are also treated with a priority scheme.

The priority treatment mechanisms may include priority queuing to obtain network resources; access to additional resources; exemption from restrictive traffic management, such as call gapping (i.e. stopping traffic upon network congestion); pre-emption of public traffic in order to release resources that can be used by an ETS call/session request; priority of an ETS user to communicate with any other available user.

The government of a country can decide on the amount of priority levels to be assigned to the ETS users.

The ETS priority treatment should be ensured through the network boundaries of interworking networks.

ETS National Implementation (ENI) and its interconnection with other ENIs

In cases of disasters or emergency situations, it is important that an ETS user in one country can communicate with available ETS users in other countries. This may require that two ETS national implementations have to interconnect via an international network, which has to provide priority treatment capabilities. In order to carry out these interconnections, countries may establish bilateral or multilateral agreements with regards to the exchange and treatment of ETS calls or sessions. Based on these agreements, the information regarding the ETS user priority level should be carried out transparently across the international network up to the destination network.

An outgoing international gateway shall provide priority treatment to an ETS call or session and if necessary, it has to provide appropriate mapping of the originating country's national ETS indicators to the corresponding international call markings, so that the ETS call or session will have priority treatment in the international network.

In a companion contribution to this meeting, the delegation of Canada proposes to adopt the International Emergency Preference Scheme (IEPS) for disaster relief operations, as described in ITU-T Recommendation E.106. If IEPS is adopted, it can be used for the interconnection of ENIs, based on bilateral or multilateral agreements.

CONCLUSIONS

The Working Group on Technology recommends that CITEL PCC.I endorses ITU-T Recommendation E.107, Emergency Telecommunications Service (ETS) and interconnection framework for national implementations of ETS, approved by ITU-T Study Group 2 in February 2007.

FUTURE WORK

The Rapporteur Group on Standards Coordination will continue monitoring the progress of the Emergency Telecommunications Service, as it is important that CITEL Members States can use their respective telecommunication networks for disaster relief operations in case of crisis or emergencies.

This work is also important considering the bilateral and/or multilateral agreements. Based on these, a CITEL member state that is undergoing a crisis or an emergency situation can communicate and get support and emergency relief from other Members States.

RESOURCE DOCUMENTS

[1] ITU-T Recommendation E.107, Emergency Telecommunications Service (ETS) and interconnection framework for national implementations of ETS, February 2007.

[2] ITU-T Recommendation E.106, International Emergency Preference Scheme (IEPS) for disaster relief operations.

[3] "Emergency Telecommunications Services", CCP.I-TEL/doc. 1106/07, Mendoza, Argentina, September 2007.

[4] "ITU Activities Related to Emergency Telecommunications", CCP.I-TEL/doc. 1001/07, Buenos Aires, Argentina, March 2007.

[5] "Emergency Telecommunications Service in Next Generation Networks", PCC.I/doc.1476/02, Montevideo, Uruguay, May 2002.