

PCC.I/RES. 266 (XXVIII-16)¹

**IDENTIFICATION OF FREQUENCIES FOR TERRESTRIAL RADIOCOMMUNICATIONS IN
THE AMERICAS REGION FOR DISASTERS**

The 28 Meeting of Permanent Consultative Committee I: Telecommunications/Information and Communication Technologies (PCC.I),

CONSIDERING:

- a) That a variety factors need to be considered in the planning of emergency communications, among them, the return network, network redundancy, the frequency spectrum, and human capital training.
- b) That use of the radio spectrum in terrestrial radiocommunication services is essential in disasters for the coordination of assistance and humanitarian aid.
- c) That some recommendations exist, such as Recommendation PCC.II/REC. 20 (VIII-06), “Measures to Ensure the Availability of GMPCS during Emergencies and Natural Disasters.”
- d) That the region is continually struck by natural disasters, such as earthquakes, hurricanes, and floods, causing disruption in countries, which may take several years to recover and return to normality,
- e) That to be noted in that regard is the significant increase in seismic movements in the region and worldwide, leading to heavy loss of life and major property damage. According to the United States Geological Survey (USGS), in one month, 163 seismic movements above magnitude 4.5 were recorded, the most significant being:

MAGNITUDE	COUNTRY	DATE
7.80	ECUADOR	4/16/16
6.90	BURMA	4/13/16
6.60	AFGHANISTAN	4/10/16
6.40	VANUATU	4/14/16
6.20	JAPAN	4/14/16
6.10	GUATEMALA	4/15/16
6.10	ECUADOR	4/20/16
6.00	JAPAN	4/14/16
5.70	JAPAN	4/16/16

RECOGNIZING:

- a) That CITEL has adopted a series of documents on, for example, workshops and resolutions, as well as draft decisions, in an effort to identify solutions and recommendations on emergency communications, such as:

¹ CCP.I-TIC/doc. 3880/16 rev. 1

- PCC.I/RES. 256 (XXVII-15), “Emergency Communications – Ongoing Activities and Potential Next Steps for Regional Action – For consideration of the PCC.I Rapporteurship on Disaster Prevention, Response and Mitigation”
- PCC.I/RES. 168 (XVII-10), “Seminar and On-line Workshops on the Use of Telecommunications in the Prevention and Mitigation of Catastrophes and Disaster”
- PCC.I/REC. 6 (XVI-10), “Adoption of Measures to Establish Procedures for Installing Minimum Communication Equipment at Times of Natural Disasters”

b) That some of the bands most commonly used at the international level for terrestrial radiocommunication services are the VHF band and the UHF band.

c) That at the last meeting of PCC.I, held from September 22 to 25, 2015, in Washington, D.C., the need was established to develop a regional “Roster of Disaster Experts,” which would help identify contacts, but also facilitate direct interaction and collaboration among members of CITEL by making it possible for members to contact colleagues directly for their assistance at all phases of emergency communications, among other measures,

BEARING IN MIND:

a) That Recommendation ITU-R M.1826 establishes the harmonized frequency channel plan for broadband public protection and disaster relief operations at 4 940-4 990 MHz in Regions 2 and 3,

b) That Recommendation ITU-R M.2015-1 (02/2015) establishes frequency arrangements for public protection and disaster relief radiocommunication systems in UHF bands in accordance with Resolution 646 (Rev.WRC-12),

c) That, nonetheless, there is ongoing need to establish regionally harmonized frequency arrangements for the implementation of cutting edge solutions for public protection and relief operations,

d) That the identification of the available frequencies in each administration in which equipment could operate, and any other relevant instruction or procedure, could facilitate compatibility and interoperability through mutual cooperation and consultation, especially in emergencies and relief operations in case of national, regional, and cross border disasters,

e) That, within CITEL, Permanent Consultative Committee II: Radiocommunications (PCC.II) is the body charged with the planning, coordination, harmonization, and efficient use of the radio spectrum, and of geostationary and non-geostationary satellite orbits, for radiocommunication services, including broadcasting.

RESOLVES:

1. To urge the Member States to identify radiocommunication frequencies for use in disasters in the Region 2 countries.

2. To request PCC.II to examine and study different options for the identification of a series of bands or frequencies for disaster telecommunications in “Region 2.”

3. To request PCC.II to report to PCC.I at its next meeting on the progress, recommendations, and/or conclusions of the requested examination and study for the identification of a series of bands or frequencies for disaster telecommunications in “Region 2,” as indicated in *resolves 2*.
4. To instruct the Executive Secretary of CITEL to forward this resolution to PCC.II so that it can analyze the corresponding request, given the importance of duly harmonized spectrum in the Region for disaster telecommunications.