

**SUMMARY RECORD, ADMINISTRATIVE COUNCIL  
INTERNATIONAL AMATEUR RADIO UNION  
Meeting in Seoul, Republic of Korea  
12 September 2018**

1. The 44<sup>th</sup> meeting of the Administrative Council (AC) of the International Amateur Radio Union was called to order at 1600 local time Wednesday, 12 September 2018, at the Hotel PJ Myeong-Dong, Seoul, Republic of Korea, by IARU President Tim Ellam, VE6SH/G4HUA. Also present were the following members: Ole Garpestad, LA2RR, Vice President; David Sumner, K1ZZ, Secretary; Don Beattie, G3BJ, President, and Hans Blondeel Timmerman, PB2T, Secretary, IARU Region 1; Reinaldo Leandro, YV5AM, President, and Ramón Santoyo, XE1KK, Vice President, IARU Region 2; and Gopal Madhavan, VU2GMN, Chairman, and Peter Young, VK3MV, Director, IARU Region 3.
2. Mr. Ellam noted that the purpose of the meeting was to consider drafts of two resolutions that had been discussed at the annual meeting held on 8-9 September. The drafts had been distributed earlier in the day.
3. In order to strengthen IARU policy opposing radio spectrum pollution, the following revision of Resolution 14-1 was agreed:

**RESOLUTION 14-1  
(Revised 2018)**

*concerning the protection of the radio spectrum as a natural resource*

The IARU Administrative Council, Albena, September 2014,

*recognising* that there is rapid and largely uncontrolled growth in the variety and number of man-made devices that generate radio frequency energy as an unnecessary and undesirable consequence of their operation,

*noting* that such devices now include but are not limited to switching power supplies, power inverters, plasma video displays, and wireline telecommunication systems utilizing various technologies such as Power Line Telecommunications (PLT), also called BPL (Broadband over Power Lines),

*aware* that new technologies such as wireless power transfer are likely to be deployed widely in the near future,

*deeply concerned* that present standards, regulations, and enforcement resources are inadequate to protect radiocommunication services, including the amateur and amateur-satellite services, against harmful interference from such devices,

*fully aware* that the radio frequency spectrum is an irreplaceable natural resource of inestimable value, providing humankind with the ability to

communicate over any distance without having to rely on any infrastructure whatsoever, and

*deeply committed* to the protection of the radio frequency spectrum as a global communications medium for present and future generations,

*calls upon* the nation states who are signatories to the Constitution and Convention of the International Telecommunication Union to fulfill their responsibilities under Radio Regulation **15.12**, which states in relevant part:

*Administrations shall take all practicable and necessary steps to ensure that the operation of electrical apparatus or installations of any kind, including power and telecommunication distribution networks ... does not cause harmful interference to a radiocommunication service ... operating in accordance with the provisions of these Regulations.*

*implores* the designers and manufacturers of the devices described above to make every reasonable effort to minimize radio spectrum pollution emanating from their products,

*earnestly requests* that standards-setting bodies and regulators fully support this objective, including meaningful enforcement measures in each nation-state, and

*strongly encourages* the IARU member-societies and regional organisations to pursue the implementation of this resolution as a matter of the highest priority and to the best of their ability through:

- encouraging their members to report to national spectrum regulators cases where the noise pollution level in the amateur spectrum has risen to the extent that it impacts communications capability in a harmful manner.
- keeping a record of such references to regulators so that an evidence base is created which can challenge the claim that there “is not a problem as there have been no complaints” whenever and by whomever such specious claims are made.
- pressuring the regulators to take meaningful enforcement action against manufacturers, distributors, and operators of offending devices, and
- encouraging their National Standards Committees (NSCs) to send information on interference cases to appropriate international bodies like CISPR and to the extent possible, to prepare such reports on behalf of the NSCs.

4. The following substitute for Resolution 85-9 concerning QSL bureaus was discussed. It was agreed that the new resolution properly reflects the current reality regarding QSL practices. However, as it represents a significant departure from the policy reflected in Resolution 85-9 it was agreed that the IARU regional organizations will distribute Resolution 18-1 to their member-societies on 1 October 2018 along with explanatory material to be provided by the IARU Secretary. The member-societies will be advised that effective 1 January 2019, Resolution 85-9 will be suppressed and Resolution 18-1 will take effect. Any questions or concerns raised by member-societies will be addressed during the intervening period.

### **RESOLUTION 18-1**

*concerning methods of confirming (QSLing) radio contacts (QSOs)*

The IARU Administrative Council, Seoul, September 2018,

*recognising* that many radio amateurs wish to receive confirmations of the radio contacts (QSOs) they make with other amateurs, either in the form of physical QSL cards or by electronic means,

*recognising* that the cost of exchanging QSL cards between individual amateur stations in different countries can be prohibitive unless an efficient means of international bulk exchange is in operation, as has been the case for decades thanks to the IARU QSL bureau system,

*recognising* that systems for exchanging electronic confirmations now exist that are much faster and less expensive than exchanging QSL cards, and therefore are growing in popularity as additional or alternative methods of confirmation,

*recognising* that an amateur who wishes to send a card via the IARU QSL bureau system usually has no way of knowing whether the amateur to whom it is addressed is a member of his national IARU member-society and often does not know whether the other amateur wishes to receive cards via the bureau,

*recognising* that most IARU member-societies operate incoming bureau systems that are available to members and non-members alike, but that some are unable, for good and sufficient reason, to provide service to non-members even if the expenses of doing so are fully reimbursed,

*recognising* that many QSL cards that enter the bureau system are not desired by the intended recipients and may not be deliverable, either for this or some other reason, and

*sensitive* to the importance of avoiding the unnecessary environmental impact of QSL cards being printed, transported, and ultimately discarded without being delivered,

*resolves* that member societies are encouraged to continue to offer QSL bureau service in their countries, exchanging cards with the bureaus of other member-societies, for as long as doing so is economically justifiable, and

*further resolves* that amateurs are encouraged to adopt confirmation practices, including but not limited to using electronic confirmation systems, that reduce the volume of unwanted and undeliverable QSL cards being introduced into the bureau system.

5. In support of the IARU global branding initiative the Secretary was asked to obtain quotes for the production of “IARU diamond” lapel pins in a suitable quantity for limited distribution and to share the information with the Administrative Council.

6. There being no further business to come before the Administrative Council the meeting was adjourned at 1630 local time.

David Sumner, K1ZZ  
Secretary