



Radiocommunication Bureau (BR)

Circular Letter
CA/272

1st March 2024

To Administrations of Member States and Sector Members of the ITU

Subject: **Deorbit and/or disposal strategies for non-GSO space stations using frequency assignments currently recorded in the ITU MIFR, or under coordination or notification processes.**

The recent ITU Radiocommunications Assembly 2023 held in Dubai in November last year adopted the **Resolution ITU-R 74** on Activities related to the sustainable use of radio-frequency spectrum and associated satellite-orbit resources used by space services.

While recalling the **Resolution 219 (Bucharest, 2022)** of the Plenipotentiary Conference, on sustainability of the radio-frequency spectrum and associated satellite-orbit resources used by space services; and the **Resolution 218 (Bucharest, 2022)** of the Plenipotentiary Conference, on ITU's role in the implementation of the "Space2030" Agenda: space as a driver of sustainable development, and its follow-up and review process; the ITU Radiocommunications Assembly 2023 recognized the ever-increasing number of filings for non-GSO systems received by the Radiocommunications Bureau, including systems composed of hundreds or thousands of space stations and multiple configurations, and observed a continued and expanded launch and operation of non-geostationary satellites in outer space.

Moreover, the ITU Radiocommunications Assembly 2023 instructed the development of a Recommendation on the subject matter as well as, inter alia, the exchange and dissemination of available and reliable information on this field.

In this context, I invite administrations, satellite operators, manufacturers, launch service providers, space agencies and other space stakeholders, to submit to the Radiocommunications Bureau the strategies being used, or to be used, for non-GSO space stations post-mission de-orbit and/or disposal. Specifically, the Radiocommunications Bureau welcomes information related to (a) elaboration of the post-mission strategy (b) de-orbit timetables (c) enabling technologies including maneuverability capabilities (d) point-of-contact (name, designation, email id, phone number).

In accordance with *instructs the Director of the Radiocommunication Bureau 2)* of Resolution ITU-R 74, the Bureau will include the received information in a dedicated website which will be updated regularly as soon as new information becomes available. (<https://www.itu.int/space-sustainability/>) These documents may also be used subsequently as input contributions to the respective ITU-R study group.

The Bureau thanks the administrations that have already submitted non-GSO filings for coordination and notification, as well as operating agencies, for submitting and sharing this valuable information **by 30 March 2024** through email to BRmail@itu.int.

For future non-GSO satellite filings, the requested information may be submitted as additional documents in conjunction with the coordination or notification requests.

I trust that the information to be collected from the current operating spacecrafts as well as those planned to be deployed in future will be extremely valuable to all space actors, experienced and beginners, to prevent the growth of space debris and to ensure the consequent long-term sustainability of associated spectrum-orbit resources.

Mario Maniewicz
Director

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