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The Chair

IARU Restructuring Committee

Via email

restructuring@iaru.org

Dear IARU Restructuring Committee

FEEDBACK on RESTRUCTURING PROPOSAL - Wireless Institute of Australia

The Wireless Institute of Australia (WIA) appreciates the opportunity to provide feedback on the proposed restructuring of the International Amateur Radio Union (IARU). We appreciate the considerable effort undertaken by the Future Committee and affiliated working groups in seeking to modernize and strengthen IARU operations. We believe that any restructuring must strengthen, not weaken, regional diversity and responsiveness. We think that the current proposal does not do that. We are at a loss to understand how the working group concluded that this proposal was the best or only option. What other options were considered and why were they not presented for member societies to consider?

After thorough review of the proposal, the WIA acknowledges several potential benefits that an organisational restructure might deliver, however we wish to highlight several **serious concerns and potential drawbacks**, particularly from the perspective of Region 3 and our national context in Australia.

1. Risk of Regional Underrepresentation and Loss of Regional Identity

The proposed centralized structure risks diminishing the unique voice and autonomy of Region 3 Member-Societies. A globally consolidated structure may dilute regional responsiveness and the agility needed to address Region 3 issues.

In particular, the WIA believes that the Regional IARU organisations are well engaged with their corresponding Regional Telecommunications Organisations (CEPT, CITEL and APG). The restructured global IARU would need to still have the same level of engagement with these RTO's and this would require significant regional expertise and presence to be maintained.

2. Financial Implications and Equity Concerns

The proposed harmonization of membership fees across all regions raises the likelihood of **increased financial contributions** from WIA and other Region 3 societies. The cost-of-living, exchange rate volatility, and differing revenue bases between regions must be factored into any unified fee structure. Moreover, reallocation of existing Region 3 reserves without proportional influence over expenditure priorities could unfairly disadvantage the WIA and other Region 3 national societies.

The proposal hints at financial issues in some regions. We need more information on what these issues are.

3. Virtual Participation

The recognition that some Member-Societies may only be able to attend General Assemblies virtually due to distance and cost is interesting. However, virtual attendees may be at a participatory and advocacy disadvantage in shaping policy and electing board members. Given Australia's geographic remoteness, the WIA urges safeguards to ensure **equal influence** for virtual participants.



The National Association for Amateur Radio in Australia
A member society of the International Amateur Radio Union (IARU)
Founding member of the International Amateur Radio Union Region 3



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However, the WIA recognises that virtual meetings also have some advantages and more frequent assemblies, say eighteen-month intervals, may provide opportunities to address issues and respond more quickly and efficiently.

4. Administrative Burden and Transition Risks

The transition to a Swiss-registered entity with new governance structures, legal compliance requirements, and policy harmonization may impose significant administrative burden. The timeline, legal obligations, and mechanisms for dispute resolution within the new structure remain insufficiently detailed. The details of the changes need to be provided to member societies prior to any agreements on the proposed structural changes to the IARU.

Recommendations

To support a fair and effective transition, the WIA recommends:

1. **Guaranteed Regional Representation** in all major IARU committees.
2. **Retention of Region-Specific Advisory Groups** under the new structure to maintain local expertise and responsiveness. Especially in those groups which are active in the RTO's as part of World Radiocommunication Conference preparatory work.
3. **Tiered and Flexible Fee Structures** that account for local economic conditions.
4. **Safeguards for Virtual Participation at assemblies**, including equitable voting mechanisms and transparent procedures, and review the time between meetings to determine the optimal interval.
5. **Clarity on the Legal and Financial Transition Plan**, particularly regarding the treatment of regional reserves.
6. **Consideration of and consultation on Regional Impacts** before any irreversible steps toward asset transfer or legal consolidation.

The WIA remains committed to the mission and success of the IARU and appreciates your consideration of these concerns. However, unless and until our concerns are addressed in detail we are not in favour of the proposal as it is currently presented. We look forward to continued engagement and transparent dialogue as the process moves forward.

The WIA considers that an alternative interim way forward might be to harmonise the three regions, by committee names, scope, positions, and titles. Committees need to work together wherever possible across regions. As a first step we propose that the IARU should begin by harmonising band planning across all 3 regions.

Yours sincerely,

Scott Williams VK3KJ
President