



International Amateur Radio Union Region 1

2020 General Conference – Virtual Part

11-16 October 2020

Subject	Final Plenary Meeting Minutes		
Society	IARU Region 1	Country:	N/A
Committee:	Plenary	Document number:	NS20_PLIC_18
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1. Opening

The IARU Region 1 Virtual General Conference Final Plenary opened on 16 October 2020 07:00 UTC.

2. The following Member societies attended the meeting:

AGRA, ARABIH, ARAC, ARAI, ARAS, ARAT, ARI, ARRAM, BFRA, CARS, CRC, DARC, EDR, ERASD, FRR, HRS, IRA, IRTS, KARS, LRMD, MRASZ, NRRL, OeVSV, PZK, REF, REP, RL, RSGB, RSM, SARA Seychelles, SARA Slovakia, SARL, SARS, SHRAK, SRAL, SRR, SRS, SSA, UBA, URA, URE, USKA and VERON. Represented by proxy were NARL, IARS and RAAG. RAL attended as observer.

3. To approve the minutes of the first plenary meeting.

Proposed by NARL and seconded by CRC. The minutes of the first plenary as in Document NS20_PLIC_02 were approved with 36 in favour, 0 against, 0 abstentions.

OeVSV expressed concerns about the transparency of the secret ballot voting system. The Chairman responded that the voting system was provided for in the Constitution and at his request, for the avoidance of doubt, sufficient Member societies indicated their support for it to be adopted.

4. To receive a report from the Committee C2 Chairman and to consider the recommendations from Committee C2. Documents NS20_PLIC_08 and NS_PLIC_14

a. Recommendation NS20_C2_Rec_01. document NS20_C4IC_01.

To allocate an amount of CHF 1070 (one-time amount) plus CHF 500 on an annual basis for development and maintenance of the IARU MS database application.

The recommendation was carried with 31 in favour, 0 against, 2 abstentions

b. Recommendation NS20_C2_Rec_02. Document NS20_C5_28.

To allocate an amount of CHF 4350 (one time amount) for already planned and future changes to the contest robot (VHF/UHF/MW Committee) on the express condition that PE1ITR will act as sole Point of Contact to Indiware.

The recommendation was carried with 30 in favour, 0 against, 3 abstentions

c. Recommendation NS20_C2_Rec_03.

To discuss a possible increase of the membership fee in accordance with LA17_C2_Rec_02 at the 2021 Workshop when the budget for 2022-23 is determined.

The recommendation was carried with 30 in favour, 2 against, 1 abstention

d. Recommendation NS20_C2_Rec_04. Document NS20_PLIC_08A_V2

To accept the proposed budget for 2021 as presented in document Consolidated draft budget figures for 2021

The recommendation was carried with 31 in favour, 1 against, 1 abstention

5. To receive a report from the Committee C3 Chairman and to consider the recommendations from Committee C3. Documents NS20_PLIC_16 and NS20_PLIC_13

a. Recommendation NS20_C3_Rec_01

That the constitutional changes as in Revised document NS20_C3_03 and 04 be accepted and that they will be put to Member societies for a postal ballot. These correct minor errors in the current Constitution, introduce gender neutrality and provide for calling a Virtual General Conference

The recommendation was carried with 34 in favour, 0 against, 1 abstention

b. Recommendation NS20_C3_Rec_02

That Document NS20_C3_27A as amended, to simplify the presentation of still relevant standing recommendations be accepted

The recommendation was carried with 36 in favour, 0 against, 1 abstention

c. Recommendation NS20_C3_Rec_03

That Document NS20_C3_31, containing minor changes to ToR for WG chairs and coordinators be accepted

The recommendation was carried with 36 in favour, 1 against, 0 abstentions

d. Recommendation NS20_C3_Rec_04

That Document NS20_C3_14 as amended, to make more extensive use of SMART goals and objectives be accepted and to form a 'Delivery Team' for those areas within the remit of C3-General proposals.

The recommendation was carried with 34 in favour, 0 against, 3 abstentions

e. Recommendation NS20_C3_Rec_05

That Document NS20_C3_05 will serve as a basis for the 2021 Workshop

The recommendation was carried with 37 in favour, 0 against, 3 abstentions

f. Recommendation NS20_C3_Rec_06

To continue the initiative within IARU Region 1 to get Morse code on different national lists of heritage and to build an action group. Committee C3 notes the creation of a C4 working group and recommends to final plenary that the responsibility for pursuing this initiative should be transferred to the societies taking part in the C4 Working Group and the C4 Chair. It is recommended to suppress Recommendation LA17_C3_Rec_28

The recommendation was carried with 38 in favour, 0 against, 3 abstentions

g. Recommendation NS20_C3_Rec_07

To create a Technology Working Group as proposed in document NS20_C3_20_V2. F5DJL assisted by G3YSX, HB9AMC, OE3MZC, OK7PM, ON500, OZ4VW, YT9TP and ZS6AKV will scope the work, set the boundaries and draft the Terms of Reference. F5DJL will report back before 31 December 2020, after which the TWG will be created.

The recommendation was carried with 36 in favour, 1 against, 1 abstention

h. Recommendation NS20_C3_Rec_08

That the provisions of IARU Resolution 18-1 (concerning methods of confirming (QSLing) radio contacts (QSOs)) be drawn to the attention of Member societies and that Member societies be asked to adhere to the terms of this resolution. See document NS20_C3_13

The recommendation was carried with 36 in favour, 0 against, 2 abstentions

i. Recommendation NS20_C3_Rec_09

That the recommendation from the 2014 Region 1 Conference to appoint a Regional AROS Co-ordinator be suppressed. See document NS20_PLIC_16

The recommendation proposed by NARL and seconded by ARAS was carried with 38 in favour, 0 against, 0 abstentions

j. Recommendation NS20_C3_Rec_10

To suppress Recommendation LA17_C3_Rec_27, to lobby Region 1 RTOs and administrations to introduce an Entry Level Amateur Licence. See document NS20_PLIC_16

The recommendation proposed by IRTS and seconded by PZK was carried with 34 in favour, 0 against, 4 abstentions

k. Recommendation NS20_C3_Rec_11

That the EC in absence of a volunteer, will try to identify a chair for the task group that makes an inventory of the current state of planning policies in countries, with the objective of creating a base-line database for further actions to encourage nation states to ease restrictions on amateur antennas as set out in Recommendation LA17_C3_Rec_31

The recommendation proposed by UBA and seconded by NARL was carried with 38 in favour, 0 against, 0 abstentions

l. Recommendation NS20_C3_Rec 12

That the name of the IARU Region 1 ARDF Championships be changed to IARU Region 1 European OPEN championships. Reference Document NS20_C3_12

The recommendation proposed by CRC and seconded by SARA Seychelles was rejected with 9 in favour, 21 against, 9 abstentions

m. Recommendation NS20_Youth_Rec_01

That Member societies invite young non-members to their national and local youth amateur radio events in order to attract newcomers to amateur radio and possible new members for the Member society.

Reference document NS20_PLIC_01

The recommendation proposed by SARL and seconded by SSA was carried with 37 in favour, 0 against, 1 abstention

n. Recommendation NS20_Youth_Rec_02

That Member societies that do not yet have a Youth Coordinator are urged to appoint a Youth Coordinator before the end Q1 2021.

Reference document NS20_PLIC_01

The recommendation proposed by SSA and seconded by NRRL was carried with 38 in favour, 1 against, 0 abstentions

6. To receive a report from the Committee C4 Chairman and to consider the recommendations from Committee C4. Documents NS20_PLIC_09 and NS20_PLIC_10_V2

a. Recommendation NS20_C4_Rec_01. Document NS20_C4_02

That the IARU Monitoring System Database application be approved.

The recommendation proposed by RL and seconded by CRC was carried with 35 in favour, 0 against, 1 abstention

b. Recommendation NS20_C4_Rec_04. Document NS20_C4_12

That the 6 kHz maximum bandwidth restriction in the IARU Region 1 10 metre band plan be removed in the segment from 29000 - 29510 kHz, noting that any experimental wide bandwidth operation must be on a non-interference basis to other stations, including the amateur satellite service segment at 29300 - 29510 kHz.

The recommendation proposed by RSGB and seconded by CARS was carried with 37 in favour, 0 against, 1 abstention

c. Recommendation NS20_C4_Rec_05 Document NS20_C4_15

That IARU Region 1 (C4) creates a simple one-page HF band plan graphic for use by Member societies.

The recommendation proposed by NRRL and seconded by CRC was carried with 36 in favour, 0 against, 0 abstentions

d. Recommendation NS20_C4_Rec_06. Document NS20_C4_11

That IARU Region 1 continues its work with Regions 2 and 3 to share band planning discussions and information with a goal to align HF band plans across all regions as far as possible.

The recommendation proposed by PZK and seconded by RL was carried with 39 in favour, 0 against, 0 abstentions

e. Recommendation NS20_C4_Rec_07. Ratification of VIE19_C4_REC_02

That the phrase “It is recommended that HF Beacons between 1.8 MHz and 10.15 MHz be discouraged, noting that beacons may be established on the 1.8, 3.5 and 7 MHz band in the regions of Africa south of the Equator. (REC/99/LH/C4.1)” replace the existing text within the HF Manager’s Handbook.

The recommendation proposed by IRTS and seconded by UBA was carried with 39 in favour, 0 against, 0 abstentions

f. Recommendation NS20_C4_Rec_08. Ratification of VIE19_C4_REC_03

To support global frequency harmonisation, and given the outcome of the IARU Region 3 General Conference, it is proposed that the 21.125-21.450 MHz frequency band be designated for use by amateur satellites on a non-exclusive basis, noting that frequencies above 21.4 MHz are clearly preferred.

The recommendation proposed by RSGB and seconded by RL was carried with 36 in favour, 0 against, 1 abstention

g. Recommendation NS20_C4_Rec_09. Ratification of VIE19_C4_REC_04

It is recommended that operators do not use more power than is necessary when using digital modes, and that care is taken to ensure sound cards, interfaces, and other equipment are properly set up so as to minimise the potential for interference.

The recommendation proposed by PZK and seconded by URA was carried with 38 in favour, 0 against, 0 abstentions

h. Recommendation NS20_C4_Rec_10. Ratification of VIE19_C4_REC_05 CW

It is recommended that segments of the HF bands continue to be reserved for CW exclusive operation where appropriate.

The recommendation proposed by DARC and seconded by SSA was carried with 38 in favour, 1 against, 0 abstentions

i. Recommendation NS20_C4_Rec_11. Ratification of VIE19_C4_REC_07

That IARU Region 1 recognises that a network of KiwiSDR receivers in strategic locations is a valuable tool for IARU Member Societies' work due to the TDoA ability and encourages Member societies to help build out the network.

The recommendation proposed by SARS and seconded by SSA was carried with 37 in favour, 0 against, 1 abstention

7. To receive a report from the Committee C5 Chairman and to consider the recommendations from Committee C5. Documents NS20_PLIC_12, NS20_PLIC, NS20_PLIC_06_V2 and NS20_PLIC_17 C5

a. Recommendation NS20_C5_Rec_01

That the recommendation in paper NS20_C5_15 on important actions related to the 23 cm band at WRC-23 to be taken by MS, be accepted.

The recommendation proposed by RSGB and seconded by DARC was carried with 36 in favour, 0 against, 0 abstentions

b. Recommendation NS20_C5_Rec_03. Document NS20_C5_06 Rev1

That the recommendations made during the interim meeting in Vienna 2019 and that were endorsed by the EC, be approved.

The recommendation proposed by PZK and seconded by RL was carried with 38 in favour, 0 against, 0 abstentions

c. Recommendation NS20_C5_Rec_04

That document NS20_C5_23, the use of IT technology in contests such as KST chat, databases etc. be accepted

The recommendation proposed by MRASZ and seconded by PZK was carried with 33 in favour, 2 against, 3 abstentions

d. Recommendation NS20_C5_Rec_05

That the recommendation in paper NS20_C5_24, shorter time for submitting logs for those stations who wants to win, be accepted

The recommendation proposed by ARI and seconded by REF was carried with 28 in favour, 3 against, 6 abstentions

e. Recommendation NS20_C5_Rec_06

That the recommendation in paper NS20_C5_08, 50 and 70MHz contests to be held on separate dates, be accepted

The recommendation proposed by CRC and seconded by PZK was carried with 34 in favour, 0 against, 1 abstention

f. Recommendation NS20_C5_ Rec_07. Documents NS20_C5_25 and NS20_PLIC17

That the recommendation in paper NS20_C5_25 (as amended) for 50 & 70 MHz contests be accepted (MGM and CW/SSB to be held on different dates for each – No Mixed mode)

The recommendation proposed by OeVSV and seconded by CARS was carried with 34 in favour, 0 against, 3 abstentions

g. Recommendation NS20_C5_ Rec_08

Document NS20_C5_20 was withdrawn by EDR

h. Recommendation NS20_C5_ Rec_09

That the recommendation in paper NS20_C5_21, digital activity contest scheduling, be accepted

The recommendation proposed by PZK and seconded by EDR was carried with 33 in favour, 0 against, 3 abstentions

i. Recommendation NS20_C5_ Rec_10

That the recommendation in paper NS20_C5_26, IARU Region-1 VHF & Up trophy, be accepted and that the CWG will define the initial rules and to agree on the rules by the end of 2020

The recommendation proposed by PZK and seconded by RL was carried with 31 in favour, 0 against, 8 abstentions

j. Recommendation NS20_C5_ Rec_11

To encourage multinational amateur radio interest groups to promote and document their innovations for the sake of radio amateur activities through IARU (R1). Their experience and know-how can be an added value for the amateur community and IARU Member societies.

This would not impact the way in which proposals are presented to the Region for General Conferences.

This initiative should also be taken into account in framing the Terms of Reference for the proposed TWG

The recommendation proposed by PZK and seconded by RSGB was carried with 34 in favour, 0 against, 2 abstentions

k. Recommendation Rec NS20_C5_ Rec_12

That the recommendation in paper NS20_C5_28_rev, further development of the contest robot, be accepted.

The recommendation proposed by VERON and seconded by SARA Slovakia was carried with 33 in favour, 0 against, 2 abstentions

l. Recommendation NS20_C5_ Rec_13

That the recommendation in paper NS20_C4_16 on wide band experimentation be accepted.

The recommendation proposed by OeVSV and seconded by SRS was carried with 26 in favour, 5 against, 7 abstentions

m. Recommendation NS20_C5_ Rec_14

That the VHF band plan updates in paper NS20_C5_18 be accepted

The recommendation proposed by PZK and seconded by RSGB was carried with 35 in favour, 0 against, 1 abstention

n. Recommendation NS20_C5_ Rec_15

That the UHF band plan updates in paper NS20_C5_17 be accepted

The recommendation proposed by RSGB and seconded by PZK was carried with 35 in favour, 0 against, 1 abstention

o. Recommendation NS20_C5_Rec_16

That the MW band plan updates with exception of the proposed 23 cm change in paper NS20_C5_16 be accepted.

The recommendation proposed by SARL and seconded by NARL was carried with 28 in favour, 7 against, 4 abstentions

p. Recommendation NS20_C5_Rec_17

That the recommendation, innovative data & ATV in 50 MHz, in paper NS20_C5_19 be accepted

The recommendation proposed by RSGB and seconded by REF was carried with 33 in favour, 5 against, 1 abstention

8. To receive a report from the Committee C7 Chairman and to consider the recommendations from Committee C7. Documents NS20_PLIC_15 and NS20_PLIC_07_V2

a. Recommendation NS20_C7_Rec_01. Documents NS20_C7_02 and C7_03

That the Noise Measurement Campaign should continue, and the Noise Measurement Campaign Sub-Working Group should seek to enlist help in areas where further assistance is required.

The recommendation proposed by SARL and seconded by NARL was carried with 37 in favour, 0 against, 0 abstentions

b. Recommendation NS20_C7_Rec_02. Documents NS20_C7_07 and 07A

That Member societies at the VGC consider the content of this paper and agree actions to raise awareness amongst national administrations and NSOs of the risk of WPT-EV to radio communications.

The recommendation proposed by REF and seconded by NRRL was carried with 38 in favour, 0 against, 0 abstentions

c. Recommendation NS20_C7_Rec_03. Document NS20_C7_05

It is recommended that all Member societies build up a good working relationship with their National Standards Committees, preferably becoming a member of the Committee.

The recommendation proposed by PZK and seconded by SRAL was carried with 36 in favour, 0 against, 0 abstentions

9. To receive and consider the report of the joint SRLC and PRC meeting. Document NS20_PRC-SRLCIC-01_V2

The report was noted with great interest

10. To receive and consider the report of the Youth Working Group meeting. Document NS20_PLIC_04

The report was noted with great interest

11. To receive and consider proposals for Chairs and Coordinators to serve for the next three years. Document NS20_PLIC_03

a. Recommendation NS20_PL_01 to appoint Barry Lewis G4SJH as Chair of the SRLC

Proposed by RSGB and seconded by RL, G4SJH was elected with 37 in favour, 0 against and 0 abstentions

b. Recommendation NS20_PL_02 to appoint Dick Harms PA2DW as Chair of the VHF/UHF/MW Committee

Proposed by VERON and seconded by UBA, PA2DW was elected with 36 in favour, 0 against and 0 abstentions

c. Recommendation NS20_PL_03 to appoint Wolfgang Mahr OE1MHZ as Chair of the EMC Committee

Proposed by OeVSV and seconded by NRRL OE1MHZ was elected with 37 in favour, 0 against and 0 abstentions

d. Recommendation NS20_PL_04 to appoint Philipp Springer DK6SP as Youth WG Chair

Proposed by ARI and seconded by REF DK6SP was elected with 36 in favour, 0 against and 0 abstentions

e. Recommendation NS20_PL_05 to appoint Gaspar Miró EA6AMM as IARU Monitoring Service Coordinator

Proposed by URE and seconded by URA EA6AMM was elected with 37 in favour, 0 against and 0 abstentions

f. Recommendation NS20_PL_06 to re-appoint the following officials for a new three- year term

With 37 in favour, 0 against and 0 abstentions the following officials were re-appointed

- | | |
|---------------------------|--------------------------|
| • HF Committee | Tom Kamp, DF5JL |
| • PR Committee | Séamus McCague, EI8BP |
| • STARS WG (until GC2021) | Hans Welens, ON6WQ |
| • ARDF WG | Jiří Mareček, OK2BWN |
| • HST WG | Oliver Tabakovski, Z32TO |
| • RA Coordinator | Peter Frey, HB9MQM |
| • ARSPEX Coordinator | Stefan Dombrowski, ON6TI |
| • Emcomm Coordinator | Greg Mossop, G0DUB |

- Satellite Coordinator Graham Shirville, G3VZV
- HF Beacon Coordinator Dennis Green, ZS4BS
- V/U/M beacon Coordinator Mathias Klug, DH4FAJ
- IPDA Coordinator Thomas Huber, HB9FXU

g. Recommendation NS20_PL_07 to rename the Information Programme for Handicapped Radio Amateurs (IPHA) to Information Programme for Disabled Radio Amateurs (IPDA)

The recommendation was accepted with 38 in favour, 0 against, 0 abstentions

12. To briefly review the experience of the first Virtual General Conference

The meeting agreed that the VGC was successful. There was then a short discussion about experiences of the VGC. It was agreed that it offers opportunities for smaller Member societies to participate in the work of IARU. Participants were invited to participate in a web-based survey. The results will be published on our website

13. To close the Virtual General Conference 2020

The IARU Region 1 President closed the meeting with the following words:

“Now we have completed the election process I just want to say a few words, particularly to those people who are retiring from their roles in IARU Region 1. We all know that finding capable volunteers is an increasing challenge and I would like to place on record my sincere thanks to everyone who has held a voluntary role over the last three years. I’m personally delighted that so many of our volunteer chairs and coordinators have agreed to continue for another three years but I also recognise that those who are retiring feel that it is time for a change.

So we wish those who are leaving their roles – Tore, Jacques, Dave, Lisa and Peter the very best for the future and I hope that you will be able to continue to support IARU Region 1 into the future.

We hope that you will be able to join us at our workshop next year where we will be able to recognise the work you have done here in IARU in person. In the meantime, thank you very much indeed.

At the same time, I extend a very warm welcome to those taking up new appointments. I look forward to working with you and wish you every success in your new roles.

So that brings us to the last item on our agenda. This Virtual Conference has been a first for us all in IARU. I am very interested to get lots of feedback on your experience of working in the virtual world over the last few days. As you all know we have mailed a web link to a survey to everyone who has been at the conference and I encourage everyone to complete it as quickly as possible. It will only be available until Sunday.

The results will give us a statistical profile of the views you have of the virtual general conference. In the next few minutes we have the opportunity for people to express more qualitative views about the event. But first let me say a few words.

A few words now about this particular conference. Some say that the VGC lacks personal interaction. I am afraid that is inevitable. But it represented the only way we could get together at this time, requiring no travel and no social inter-mingling. It also, incidentally, saved us, collectively about CHF 200,000.

Remote conferencing technology is maturing and improving all the time and I feel we must ask ourselves how we use the experiences of the VGC and the technology we have used to work better into the future.

We must always remember that our conferences are contribution driven. Your contributions. We meet to discuss the issues that Member societies feel are important. On the EC, we see the need to raise our game in Region 1 and work more closely together on shaping amateur radio for the future and that is why we proposed a different approach to our conference this year – a proposal that you all readily accepted but which we have been prevented from doing by COVID.

In a fast-changing world, there is a saying in the business world that **no risk + no change = no business**. If we, in amateur radio, do not adapt to the changing environment, we will go the same way as the dinosaurs. That does not mean that we stop doing what we do today. Far from it. But we need to reach out to the new generation of those who may be attracted to amateur radio, welcome them and learn from them. Yesterdays' ways are not the ways of tomorrow and that is where we need to understand how the world is changing.

We had hoped to hold the workshop about change and the future this week and I feel that taking this out of this conference has left us with rather a dry and uninspiring agenda this week. In my view, we need to find better ways of handling many of the issues we have spent time discussing this week, and free up our valuable meeting time to discuss the survival issues for amateur radio. Had we held this event in-person, would that really have been a good use of that CHF 200k I mentioned? I suspect not really.

We need to start the process of change and adaption and we can only do that jointly – IARU does not have all the answers. So, I encourage all of you to think about the world of amateur radio today and what attracts the 21st century radio amateur to our world. It is often something very different from what attracted us to the hobby. Looking at our own Member societies, what they offer to the newcomer and how that needs to change is a part of the change process for us all – just as it is for IARU itself.

I want to lay down a challenge to you all. Please, if you have not done so already, will you ensure you create a focus in **your** society for tomorrow? For tomorrow's people, tomorrow's technologies, tomorrow's activities and tomorrows ways of communicating with those you represent and the broader amateur radio world in your country. Speak to your younger or newer people and listen to what they say. Some tell us they are afraid to speak up – encourage them to be open and honest about what they see – and be prepared for some criticism. But use that criticism positively and help reshape your society and what it offers."

“Now we come to the close of our meeting. As we do, I want to thank a few other people. Firstly, any event like this relies on a team of people to make it happen.

We are all deeply grateful to the secretaries of the streams – Ian, Dick and Hilary for their work in providing the record of the meetings and succinct recommendations.

But of course the person who holds it together administratively is the Conference Secretary and I want to say a special thank you to Hans for all his work and support in what has been a busy few months preparing for the VGC.

And finally, I am deeply indebted to Chris Deacon who is working with us on the workshop next year. Chris has a lot of experience of running workshops on strategic transformation and we are very fortunate to have his involvement

Now, it is over. We can, for a day or two, relax and recover. But then it's back to IARU reality.

So, with that, I plan to close the meeting and in doing so I hope you and your families stay safe in these uncertain times. I hope and pray that we will be able to meet in person next year and I know Chris Deacon, our consultant is looking forward to the challenge of the workshop.

Thank you for participating in the Virtual Conference and my very best wishes for the future.