TAMPERE CONVENTION

Ratification and Implementation

July 2022

International Telecommunication Union (ITU)

Connect the world

Specialized United Nations (UN) Agency for Telecommunications & Information and Communication Technologies (ICTs)

3 **Sectors**

- Standardization
- Radiocommunication
- Development

193

Member States

900

Companies, universities, and international and regional organizations.

Rich network of experts in the global ICT ecosystem

Emergency Telecommunications Cluster (ETC)

Global network of organizations working together to provide shared communications services in humanitarian emergencies

1 of 11

Clusters designed by the Inter-Agency Standing Committee(IASC)

40+

Humanitarian operation since 2005

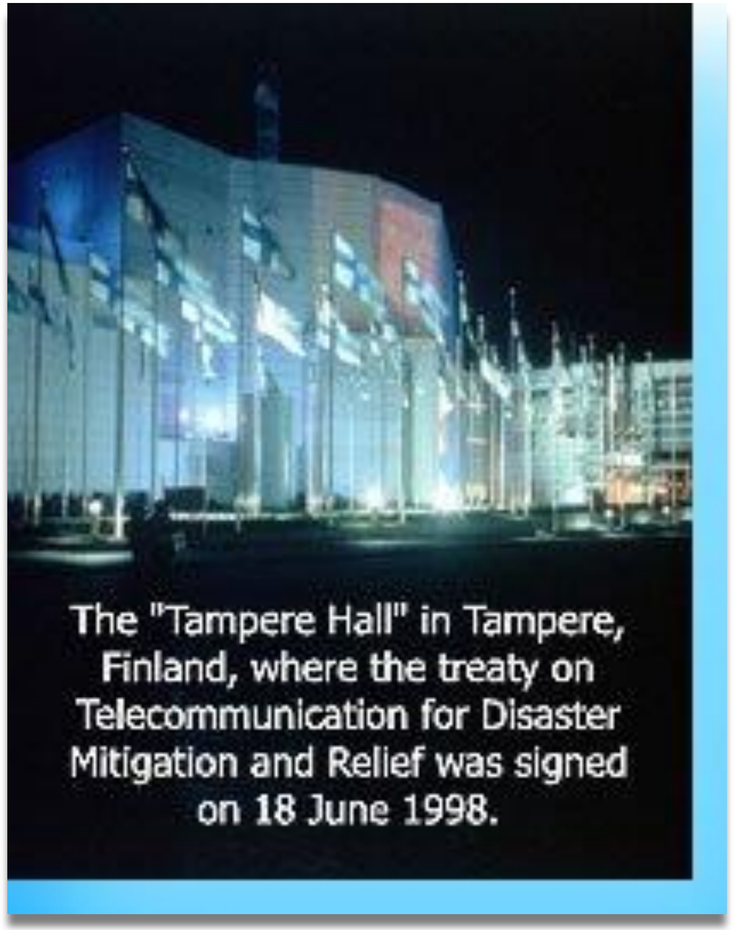
When Disaster Strikes...

...Telecommunication links are often disrupted and mobile networks are down

- But there is an urgent need to establish effective communication links for disaster response and coordination,
  - At a national level, between stakeholders involved in response and recovery
  - At an international level, among international organizations and NGOs
  - There is a need to improve international cooperation to ensure that connectivity is available in remote and rural areas, as well as in those parts of a country where existing telecommunications/ICT infrastructure has been destroyed.
- Importation of telecommunications equipment is vital to re-establish communications that will help with humanitarian activities and recovery efforts. For some governments it is also critical to receive telecommunication equipment to help manage the disaster and ITU regularly supports governments, in particular with satellite equipment.

Tampere Convention

An international Treaty “on the Provision of Telecommunication Resources for Disaster Mitigation and Relief Operations”



Tampere Convention

Background

- International Conference on Disaster Communications (Tampere, Finland, 1998), adopted the Tampere Declaration on Disaster Communication.

- Based on 50 international regulatory instruments including the constitution of the ITU, calling for absolute priority to emergency life-saving communications.

- United Nations General Assembly adopted resolution 46/182, for strengthening international coordination of humanitarian emergency assistance.

Tampere Convention

Evolution

- Tampere Convention was concluded in 1998
- Came into force on January 8 of 2005
- Currently, there are 60 signatories and 49 countries that have ratified the Convention.
  - Signature: the signature does not establish the consent to be bound, it is a means of authentication and expresses the willingness of the signatory state to continue the treaty-making process.
  - Ratification: defines the international act whereby a state indicates its consent to be bound to a treaty.
    - Approval for the treaty on the domestic level and to enact the necessary legislation to give domestic effect to the treaty
- More countries in various regions are working on the ratification of this treaty

Tampere Convention

Evolution

- Provides the legal framework for the use of telecommunications in international humanitarian assistance
- Reduces regulatory barriers
- Fully protects the interests of the States requesting and receiving international assistance. The host government retains the right to oversee and manage the international assistance
- Foresees the establishment of bilateral agreements between the provider(s) of assistance and the State requesting/receiving such assistance

Tampere Convention

Basic principles

This Convention is based on the following basic principles:

Reduce regulatory barriers: signatories agree to reduce regulatory barriers to the transit of personnel, equipment, materials and information through the affected territory. Parties to the Convention agree to "reduce or eliminate regulatory barriers to the use of telecommunications resources for mitigation and disaster relief“.

Guarantee the necessary privileges, immunities and facilities for relief personnel and organizations providing telecommunications assistance, such as:

- Immunity from arrest, detention or prosecution;
- Immunity from confiscation or embargo of their equipment, materials and property;
- Exemptions from tax obligations and other charges (excluding VAT);
- Access to local facilities;
- Exemption from licensing requirements or fast tracking of licensing applications; and
- Protection of staff, equipment and materials.

Tampere Convention

Benefit

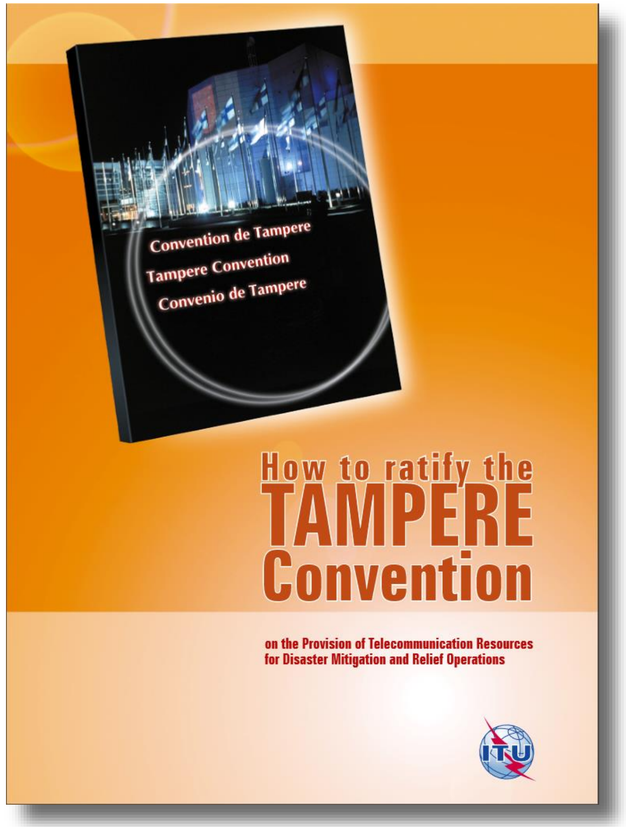
- Puts in place a structure for managing requests for assistance
- Creates mechanisms for establishing best practices, model agreements, etc.
- Improves preparedness before disasters occur
- Facilitates the deployment of telecommunications/ICT resources in the immediate aftermath of disasters
- Protects the interests of beneficiary states

Tampere Convention

How to ratify?

- When the Convention was adopted, a State could express its consent to be bound by the Convention by any of the following means:
  - By definitive signature
  - By signature subject to ratification, acceptance, or approval followed by deposit of an instrument of ratification, acceptance or approval
  - By deposit of an instrument of ratification/accession

- Ratification process will depend on national ratificational procedures



Tampere Convention

Signing

WHO CAN SIGN?

- Head of State/Government
- Foreign Minister
- Other designated official with the power of attorney

Tampere Convention

Sample of an instrument of full powers

I _____ *[name and title of the Minister of Foreign Affairs, Head of Government or Head of State]*

HEREBY AUTHORIZE _____ *[name and title]*

to _____ *[sign*/ratify/denounce/effect the following declaration in respect of]*

the TAMPERE CONVENTION on the Provision of Telecommunication Resources for Disaster Mitigation and Relief Operations on behalf of the Government of _____ *[name of State]*

Done at _____ *[place]* on _____ *[date]*

_____ *[signature]*

After the domestic ratification process by the contracting parties of the Tampere Convention, the written instruments which provide formal evidence of consent to be bound, and also reservations and declarations, will be placed in the custody of a depositary.

For Tampere Convention, the Secretary-General of the United Nations acts as the depository.

Tampere Convention

Examples of Reservation

- When definitively signing, ratifying or acceding to this Convention or any amendment hereto, a State Party may make reservations.
- A reservation is a declaration that the state reserves the right not to abide by certain provisions of the treaty.

Colombia
Reservation: “The Government of the Republic of Colombia formulates a reservation to paragraph 3 of article 11, by means of which Colombia does not consider itself bound by either of both of the dispute settlement procedures provided for in paragraph 3 of article 11.”

Ireland
Reservation: "Whereas to the extent to which certain provisions of the Tampere Convention on the Provision of Telecommunications Resources for Disaster Mitigation and Relief Operations ("the Convention") fall within the responsibility of the European Community, the full implementation of the Convention by Ireland has to be done in accordance with the procedures of this international organisation."

Luxembourg
Reservation: “To the extent to which certain provisions of the Tampere Convention on the Provision of Telecommunications Resources for Disaster Mitigation and Relief Operations fall within the area of responsibility of the European Community, the full implementation of the Convention by Luxembourg has to be done in accordance with the procedures of this international organisation."

Montenegro
Reservation: “In accordance with Article 14 of the Tampere Convention on the Provisions of Telecommunications Resources for Disaster Mitigation and Relief Operations, adopted at Tampere, 18 June 1998, the Government of Montenegro declares that this Convention shall not apply to:
To the extent to which certain provisions of the Tampere Convention on the Provisions of Telecommunications Resources for Disaster Mitigation and Relief Operations (“the Convention”) fall within the area of responsibility of the European Community, the full implementation of the Convention by Montenegro has to be done in accordance with the procedures of this international organization.”

Tampere Convention

Process of Implementation

- Implementation of Tampere differs for many countries, simplified process may look like:
  - National Legislation on Tampere Implementation
  - Awareness Creation – inform national stakeholders and agencies on the legislation and ensure its implementation
  - Activation Process – when the Tampere is to be activated during disaster

Tampere Convention

Challenges

- Lack of awareness and knowledge about the benefits of the convention
- Long ratification procedures
- No implementation processes
- Lack of coordination mechanisms at a national level
  - Disconnect between those who ratified the treaty and customs (who are often not aware of the Convention and do not feel in a position to apply it when necessary)
  - No national legislation on Tampere Implementation
  - Absence of activation process

Tampere Convention

Additional Hurdles – Equipment shipping & distribution

- Shipment protocols related to Lithium Batteries
- Shipping agencies have varied understanding on battery shipment
- Undue delays (limitations of shipping agencies) both anticipated and unforeseen (e.g. Covid)
- Country’s logistic capacity
- Regulatory hurdles

Tampere Convention

Ways forward

- Build capacity and raise awareness on the importance of this Treaty at a national/regional level
- Develop implementation processes and mechanisms that can provide guidance to countries that have signed and ratify the convention
- Prepare in advance a list of specific telecommunication resources and plans that an organization may have for the use of these resources to respond to a request for telecommunications assistance.
- Create partnerships among organizations to work together towards creating an implementation framework

List of 49 countries

that have ratified the Tampere Convention

EUROPE	Netherland	Armenia	Uganda	Canada
Bulgaria	Belgium	CARIBBEAN AND THE PACIFIC	Liberia	Colombia
Czech Republic	Romania	Barbados	Guinea	El Salvador
Cyprus	Slovakia	Dominica	Burundi	Uruguay
Denmark	Spain	Saint Vincent and the Grenadines	Cape Verde	Nicaragua
Finland	Sweden	Tonga	ARAB STATES	Panama
Luxembourg	Switzerland	ASIA	Lebanon	Peru
Hungary	Iceland	India	Kuwait	Venezuela
Ireland	Montenegro	Pakistan	Morocco	NEXT... ?
Liechtenstein	United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland	Sri Lanka	Oman	
Lithuania	France	AFRICA	AMERICAS	
Albania	CIS	Kenya	Argentina	

List of 60 countries

that have signed the Tampere Convention*

EUROPE	Portugal	Commonwealth of Independent States	Congo	El Salvador
Bulgaria	Romania	Russian Federation	Gabon	Uruguay
Czech Republic	Slovakia	Tajikistan	Ghana	Honduras
Cyprus	Sweden	Uzbekistan	ARAB STATES	United States of America
Denmark	Switzerland	AFRICA	Lebanon	Nicaragua
Finland	Iceland	Niger	Kuwait	Panama
Estonia	Caribbean & the Pacific	Senegal	Morocco	Peru
Germany	Haiti	Mali	Mauritania	Venezuela
Italy	Marshall islands	Madagascar	Sudan	Chile
Hungary	ASIA	Kenya	Oman	Saint Lucia
Malta	Mongolia	Uganda	AMERICAS	Costa Rica
North Macedonia	Nepal	Benin	Argentina	NEXT...?
Poland	Sri Lanka	Chad	Canada	
Netherland	India	Burundi	Brazil	

*Countries that signed but not yet ratified the Convention are marked in red.

National Emergency Telecommunications Plan

A critical tool to assist policy makers and national regulatory authorities to develop a clear, flexible and user-friendly national emergency telecommunications plan with a multi-stakeholder approach. The guidelines can be used for developing tailored contingency plans for emergencies caused by natural hazards, epidemics and pandemics.

The UN Secretary General's Roadmap for Digital Cooperation

The UN Secretary General's Roadmap for Digital Cooperation has identified a set of recommendations on how the international community could work together to optimize the use of digital technologies and mitigate risks.

This includes (under the pillar of 'connectivity') to "Accelerate discussions on connectivity as part of emergency preparedness, responses and aid, including working through the inter-agency Emergency Telecommunications Cluster."

The group of organizations working on this topic (ITU, ETC, UNHCR, GSMA) have identified an actionable framework that guides inclusive and meaningful connectivity in the context of emergency preparedness, resilience, and response. One of the six actions identified, is on the Tampere Convention, highlighting its usefulness to support emergency telecommunication support and equipment in times of disaster.

Resources

Topic	Links
Tampere Convention	ITU Tampere Convention information page
	Online Course in ITU Academy: Tampere Convention
	UNTC - List of signatories/parties to the Tampere Convention
National Emergency Telecommunication Plans (NETPs)	Online course in ITU Academy: developing national emergency telecommunication plan
	ITU Guidelines for national emergency telecommunication plans
	National Emergency Telecommunications Plans: Enablers and Safeguards (GSMA)
Emergency Telecoms Preparedness Simulation Exercises	Emergency Telecommunications Table-Top Simulation Guide
	TTX Simulation Exercise training via the ITU Academy
	Crisis Connectivity Charter
Disaster Connectivity Maps (DCM)	ITU Disaster Connectivity Map page
	Disaster Connectivity Map platform
ICT Assessments for emergencies	ETC-ITU Emergency Telecoms Preparedness Checklist
	The GSMA - Connectivity, Needs and Usage Assessment (CoNUA) Toolkit

Thank you!