

COVID-19: DSA calls for spectrum management actions to enable critical broadband services

DSA recommends swift and streamlined regulatory actions in using ICT for the prevention, preparedness and response to the Covid-19 pandemic.

*DSA recommends that National Regulatory Authorities (NRAs) employ accelerated and streamlined processes to make necessary spectrum available that is already evaluated for broadband service and wireless backhaul. Access to this spectrum **on a nation-wide basis** will enable critical applications and services, especially for **emergency communications and broadband access** that supports **tele-medicine, tele-work, distance education, and online commerce**. These crucial services rely on sufficient spectrum during the pandemic time when tens of millions of people must stay at home.*

*NRAs should focus on digitally divided communities who stand to lose out the most during this crisis, including rural and remote areas, and also support smaller providers that serve these communities with access to shared and unlicensed spectrum. To enable broadband deployment and forward-looking preventive spectrum policies, a combination of spectrum bands should be made available **free of charge**, under a **license-exempt access scheme** like Wi-Fi, or via a **dynamic spectrum access model** such as TV White Space, **self-coordinated light licensing** such as E-Band, or **tiered spectrum sharing models**. Taking this action will help to facilitate terrestrial and non-terrestrial emergency communications and affordable broadband access for those that are vulnerable and otherwise isolated.*

*DSA also calls for **coordinated regulatory actions** across ITU regions and sub-regions on topics such as **frequency coordination, flexible use, simplified type-approval process, equipment import/export and interconnection**.*