

WRC23 - GSOA Position on Explicit Agreement

December 2023

1. GSOA appreciates the concerns that underlie proposals related to non-GSO user terminals operating without authorization within the territory under the jurisdiction of an administration, that impact the sovereign rights of administrations regarding services provided on their territories. GSOA members¹ respect the sovereign rights of all administrations to authorize services provided on their territories.
2. GSOA welcomes the opportunity to work with administrations to address the concerns above. Moreover, GSOA understands that the current regulations require that an earth station must be authorized by a country before it operates on the territory under its jurisdiction.
3. However, the proposal to address the problem in para 1. above, i.e. requiring that a non-GSO system include in its service area only territories for which an explicit agreement has been obtained from the relevant administrations, could have unintended consequences on satellite systems. Generally, GSOA has concerns about any proposal that would impose additional regulatory burdens on operators and regulators if they are not needed, because these could have the consequence of increasing complexity of regulatory procedures required to bring global connectivity and bridge the digital divide.
4. Instead, rather than requiring explicit agreement from an administration to include its territory in the service area of a satellite system, to address the concerns expressed in para 1. above, satellite operators should adhere strictly with the Radio Regulations, in particular with Article **18**, Resolution **22 (WRC-19)** and Resolution **25 (WRC-03)**. Furthermore, GSOA believes WRC-23 could urge the ITU BR to assist administrations to address these issues.

¹ Members – GSOA – Global Satellite Operator’s Association