

45th Wireless World Research Forum Conference

Virtual event

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Welcome Speech

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Good morning, good afternoon, and good evening to you all.

I would like to start by thanking Nigel for his kind invitation to me to join you today. It is a pleasure for me to be sharing this opening session also with Dr Fadhlullah, Prof Sureswaran, and, of course, my colleague Doreen.

I was requested to provide brief welcome remarks, and I intend to mainly focus them on celebrating that WWRF is now a full member of ITU's Radiocommunication Sector.

Dear friends,

As we have just heard from Nigel, the Wireless World Research Forum is at the forefront of scientific and technological development. And we are very proud to have the WWRF join the ITU-R family as a Sector Member.

As you know, the International Telecommunication Union, founded on 1865, is the specialized agency of the United Nations responsible for all matters related to information and communication technologies. The ITU provides the platform for international cooperation. It is the place where governments and the private sector work together and take consensus-based decisions that shape the future of the ICT industry.

As a Sector Member of the ITU, WWRF will be able to contribute directly to the work of the ITU-R, actively participate in all our events and meetings, have

access to documents and reports, and network with ICT experts and stakeholders. Our Members include 193 countries, and over 700 manufacturers, service providers, innovative players, R&D institutions, and academia. They are the lifeblood of our organization.

Dear colleagues,

By the end of 2019, the ITU-R achieved a landmark. We finalized the detailed specifications of the radio interfaces of IMT-2020. And I would like to thank the Wireless World Research Forum for its active participation in this process.

Between 2018 and 2020 the ITU-R evaluated various candidate technologies for the IMT-2020 radio interface. And the WWRF was one of the 15 Independent Evaluation Groups (IEG) in charge of the task. This complex work required high technological know-how on mobile systems that was certainly available within the WWRF membership.

With the tremendous work of these IEGs and the supporting administrations and sector members, ITU finalized the specifications and the publication of a new ITU-R Recommendation is expected by the end of January.

The development of this new standard and the enhancement of wireless communications will support several use cases that leverage the advantages of 5G. For example, by accelerating the response time of autonomous vehicles, or by providing the bandwidth for new virtual realities and more realistic experiences. The transformative potential of 5G applicable across industries will soon be felt across the globe.

As this WWRF-conference is entitled *“Hyperconnectivity: Beyond 5G Opportunities and Challenges”*, I want to provide a small outlook on the future work of ITU-R and hopefully on the engagement of the WWRF.

The first version of the already mentioned Recommendation on IMT-2020 specifications will contain 3 radio interfaces [“3GPP 5G-SRIT”; “3GPP 5G-RIT” and “5Gi”]. And 2 further radio interface proposals, from ETSI and Nufront (China), have been granted an exceptional review within the IMT-2020 process extension.

Last October, ITU-R Working Party 5D invited the Independent Evaluation Groups to re-engage for an evaluation of these two candidate technology submissions for IMT-2020. So far, ITU-R has already received 5 commitments and we would like to encourage WWRF to consider re-engaging in this evaluation as well.

In this new study cycle, we will also work on “IMT-2020 and beyond”. Working Party 5D is launching the work on the future technical aspects of terrestrial IMT systems considering the time frame up to 2030 and beyond. This work could include anticipating new use cases for IMT, identifying any gaps or even new technical enablers necessary in the 2030 timeframe.

It is fair to say that the well proven IMT process will again be applied ‘towards 2030 and beyond’, starting with a clear “ITU-R Vision” and definition phase. The “ITU-R Vision”, states what is needed to be accomplished, and standardization bodies such as 3GPP, ETSI and IEEE will then define and develop a fitting functional technology.

We count on the cooperation of all stakeholders to start this new journey. The ITU-R has invited organizations to provide inputs for its forthcoming meetings in 2021, to help its work on a new Report on “Future Technology Trends towards 2030 and beyond”. And I would kindly invite WWRF to contribute to this work to define what will be ‘beyond 5G’, the new vision and, in particular, the technical requirements of this new technology. My colleague Uwe Löwenstein will provide you with further details later today.

Dear members of WWRF,

We are very happy to welcome the Wireless World Research Forum on board as our new Member.

Invited by the ITU as a guest, the WWRF played a key role as one of the Independent Evaluation Groups that assessed the candidate radio interface technologies for IMT-2020.

Now, as a Sector Member of the ITU-R, I am sure WWRF is ready to join forces with us and contribute even more to this new challenge Beyond 5G driving innovation in the telecommunications sector.

I wish you a successful meeting.

Thank you for your attention.