

20th meeting of the RCC Commission on the Regulation of the Usage of the Radio Frequency Spectrum and Satellite Orbits

Minsk, Belarus - Hybrid event

Opening Remarks

6 December 2021

Mario Maniewicz
Director, Radiocommunication Bureau

Mr. Pavel Tkach, First deputy minister of communications and informatization of the Republic of Belarus,

Mr. Nurudin Mukhitdinov, Director General of the Executive Committee of the Regional Commonwealth in the Field of Communications,

Mr. Valery Butenko, Chairman of the RCC Commission on the Regulation of the Usage of the Radio Frequency Spectrum and Satellite Orbits,

Delegates from the Member States,

Ladies and Gentlemen,

Good morning and good afternoon to you all,

I would like to start by thanking the RCC for inviting me to provide opening remarks at this meeting of the RCC Commission on the use of radio frequency spectrum and satellite orbits.

Despite delivering my speech from Geneva, I am happy to learn that more than 80 delegates from RCC countries and international organizations, including ITU's Radiocommunication Bureau, are physically present today in Minsk. This brings a cautious optimism that face-to-face meetings will resume soon and accelerate the progress of our work.

As I know the RCC is a big family, I wanted to take this opportunity to wholeheartedly congratulate our dear friend Albert Nalbandian for his 80th anniversary, which was just yesterday. We all appreciate Albert's dedication and support to the ITU-R activities during all these years, and I thought of preparing for Albert a birthday present that is highly symbolic: an official ITU certificate acknowledging his valuable contribution to the Union. I will have the pleasure to deliver it personally to him once he's back in Geneva.

Dear friends,

As you know, the activities of the ITU Radiocommunication Sector in spring 2020 coincided with the beginning of the COVID pandemic. For almost two years, we have been holding online meetings only. With your support, we went through these difficult times. We adapted to limited meeting hours, worked in between meetings in correspondence groups, and dealt with the challenge of reaching consensus in a virtual environment.

We expect to resume ITU-R Study Groups physical meetings as of February 2022. Surely, delegates and staff will need to conform with Swiss rules and the rules of host countries in the future, in particular, with respect to social distance, room occupancy, Covid certificates, use of masks, and travel constraints.

In fact, these will be physical meetings with remote participation, as for some time we will most probably have only a portion of our delegates being able to attend meetings in person.

Therefore, we will be happy to see you in Geneva in the beginning of 2022. It is expected that face-to-face discussions will help to improve the efficiency of the meetings thanks to return to normal working hours, notably starting at 0900 and ending at 1730 hours, Geneva time.

In addition, physical meetings will re-open the possibility for informal offline consultations between the delegates in coffee breaks and evenings. It is difficult to overestimate the value and benefits of such consultations.

On 24 November the BR published Administrative Circular 1002 related to the resumption of physical meetings in ITU-R. This Circular contains information

about the sanitary measures, working hours and interpretation. It also gives important details concerning decision-making process at such meetings and provide advice for the administrations who are not able to send their delegates to the ITU Headquarters. I invite you to carefully read this Circular letter.

Dear colleagues,

With respect to the next World Radiocommunication Conference, as you may know, it will take place from the 20 November to 15 December 2023, preceded by the 2023 Radiocommunication Assembly. WRC-23 will be held in the United Arab Emirates either in Abu Dhabi or Dubai.

In the preparations to the Conference, we have successfully achieved several milestones already. Sharing and compatibility studies are being developed using the agreed characteristics and parameters. The discussion on specific complex agenda items is continuing and I am confident that the ITU-R community will identify good compromise solutions for all agenda items, as was the case in past Conferences.

As always, I count very much on a constructive input of the RCC administrations to the WRC-23 preparatory work. RCC has been always very active in the ITU activities, providing a great regulatory and scientific contribution to the work of the Radiocommunication Sector. Currently RCC representatives are successfully chairing some key ITU-R groups, such as Study Group 4 on satellite services or Task Group 6/1 on UHF band, which also significantly contributes to the ITU-R studies and WRC-23 preparations.

I am glad to report that the WRC-23 Informal Group has already been established and held its first meeting virtually in June. This group will facilitate the preparation of WRC-23, by agreeing on the draft structure of the Conference and the leadership of the Committees and Working Groups. The conference itself will be chaired by the UAE, as the host country of WRC-23.

The second WRC-23 Informal Group meeting will be held during the Inter-regional workshop on WRC-23 preparation, which takes place next week, on 13 - 15 December. I invite Mr Albert Nalbandyan, to participate and nominate representatives of your regional group to join the Workshop. This event will

provide up-to-date information regarding the ITU-R preparatory studies for WRC-23 and present preliminary common views on various WRC-23 agenda items from the regional groups and main international organizations.

Dear participants,

While putting some focus on the WRC-23 preparations, it is needless to say how important are the meetings of the RCC Groups on Spectrum Management, Broadcasting Matters, and the Commission itself.

The activities of the Spectrum management Working Group, including further development of the RCC Table of Frequency Allocations and some other deliverables, will certainly assist in promoting regional harmonization and enable more affordable communications for the population of your countries.

As for the Broadcasting Group, I recognize its efforts to search and agree on additional channels for digital television below 694 MHz, with the view of the re-arrangement of the upper part of the UHF band for other applications. As it has become a tradition, I would like to offer BR's assistance in this activity, in particular for the organization of multilateral coordination meetings with the countries outside RCC.

As for the Commission, Mr. Chairman, it has a crucial role to consider and approve the deliverables of the Groups, define the directions of their future work and organize the coordination of all RCC activities concerning the use of the frequency and orbital resources in your region.

Dear Friends,

2022 promises to be a very busy year for the ITU. We have 3 major ITU Conferences that will be held during the same year, the WTSA, WTDC, and the Plenipotentiary Conference.

It will also be a very important year for the advancement of ITU-R studies, both the fundamental ones and those preparing technical bases for WRC-23. Once

again, I count on the expertise of RCC to support all these studies. I am confident that the professionalism of the delegates, their strategic vision and their good friendly relations will allow to successfully achieve our common objectives.

As for the ITU's Radiocommunication Bureau, you can rest assured that we are always at your disposal to provide assistance in any radiocommunication matters,

I wish you a very productive meeting.

Thank you very much