

5th CEPT ECC CPG for WRC-23 (CPG23-5)

Isle of Bornholm, Denmark

Remarks of the Director of the BR

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I would like to start by thanking the CEPT, and in particular the CPG Chairman, Alexandre Kholod, for the kind invitation to address the 5th meeting of CPG23.

It is a pleasure to be here today and to be able to meet with those of you that are fortunate to be physically present in Bornholm. Greetings also to those that are attending the meeting remotely.

I note that this meeting is being held at challenging times for the region, and I sincerely hope that the feeling of peace we have in this Baltic Island will very soon be felt in all other corners of Europe.

Dear colleagues,

After two years of virtual meetings, due to COVID-19 and all its variants, the ITU successfully held, physically in Geneva, both the World Telecommunication Standardization Assembly and the 2022 session of the Council during the past month of March. Now in April, the 2022 RAG meeting was also held in ITU Headquarters. Although remote participation facilities were provided for all these events, many participants attended them in-person without any significant health-related consequence.

As many of you have repeatedly mentioned, informal discussions are necessary to help us find solutions to contentious topics. Therefore, for 2022, all remaining ITU-R meetings are planned to be held physically, with remote participation.

We note that virtual meetings have also benefits. They remove the travel cost barrier and are an effective way to overcome travel restrictions. To accommodate all, we will continue to offer remote participation for the upcoming meetings, even though they will be held in a physical format within the normal working hours for meetings held in the ITU headquarters.

Moreover, since the work of the Working Parties and the Study Groups can be considered as a preparatory work, we are making every effort to ensure, to the extent practicable, that delegates present in the room and those connected remotely are able to participate in the meeting discussions on an equal footing. This will allow us to progress the work by adopting a fair and inclusive approach that supports the needs of all delegates.

As you know, in 2023, the ITU will begin the construction of the new building and there will be a significant reduction of meeting rooms availability in ITU Headquarters. The CICG will continue to be an option, whenever it is vacant, since the facility is shared by all the international organizations based in Geneva.

We are therefore encouraging Administrations to host Working Party and Study Group meetings during the period of construction of ITU's new building. I count on you to help us in this regard.

In case of unavailability of rooms in the ITU and in CICG, and without countries volunteering to host ITU-R meetings, we might need to revert back to holding fully virtual meetings throughout the preparatory period for the WRC-27. I am certain that you share my belief that this is a situation that is avoidable and the radiocommunication sector needs to come together to ensure that we are able to prepare properly for that WRC.

Mr. Chairman,

Regarding WRC-23 preparations, the work has been advancing and some important milestones have been achieved. ITU-R study groups are now finalizing ITU-R Recommendations, Reports and other supporting documents for WRC-23.

Surely some agenda items are more challenging than others – as for example agenda items 1.2 and 1.5 on mobile services, agenda item 1.8 on UAVs, agenda items 1.15 and 1.16 on ESIMS, agenda item 1.17 on satellite-to-satellite links, and topics of agenda item 7 related to non-geostationary systems (as for example, topic A on orbital tolerances, topic B on milestone procedures, and topics related to Appendix 30/30A/30B.)

Another issue which deserves attention is Article 21.5 limit for IMT Active Antenna Systems (AAS). This issue is not explicitly included in the WRC-23 agenda but could take some precious time of the Conference. The power limit of No. 21.5 of the Radio Regulations is very important, because it protects satellite receivers from emissions of terrestrial stations.

Working Party 5D is now studying the matter, and CEPT countries are contributing very constructively to the process. For the BR, it is important that the approach for the application of No. 21.5 to IMT Advanced Antenna Systems in the notification process is clearly defined. With that, and with the necessary parameters, the BR would be able to assist Administrations with their notification procedures.

The BR has been consulting with the management of concerned groups and with Administrations to identify an agreed way forward that would help the working parties to achieve the necessary progress and finalize their documents.

I encourage the delegates to remember and continue to abide by our common successful practice in preparation for past WRCs, where the CPM Report should present, to the extent practicable, the description and feasibility of the possible competing methods or solutions to satisfy an Agenda Item and, if necessary, accommodating the conflicting views that may exist on complex issues.

I am confident that physical meetings will enable delegates to better clarify their positions and to facilitate informal discussions towards finding compromise solutions. Moreover, being face-to-face will bring back the friendly and respectful atmosphere we are used to.

Dear colleagues,

Concerning the dates and the venue of the Second Session of the Conference Preparatory Meeting, we are still working with potential hosts that have expressed serious interest in holding the conference. However, while we do not have final confirmation, we will continue working with the existing deadlines assuming the CPM23-2 will be held at the end of March 2023, in the CICG.

This gives all responsible groups around 6 months to finalize their draft CPM texts and grants sufficient time for the required translation of hundreds of pages.

We have received requests to grant additional time for specific groups, and this is being considered, having in mind the constraint of Resolution ITU-R 2-8 which states that the consolidated draft CPM Report shall be translated into the 6 official languages of the Union and made available in electronic format a minimum of two months prior to the date scheduled for the second session of CPM.

As you know, the dates of the WRC have been confirmed from the 20 November to 15 December 2023, in the United Arab Emirates.

The ITU website for WRC-23 is available and will provide direct and continually updated access to information on the preparations for the conference.

Finally, allow me to applaud CEPT for its active leadership in the NOW4WRC23 initiative and in the development of a draft Resolution on Gender Equality, Equity and Parity in the ITU-R. I encourage CEPT to continue its work to achieve women's full participation in all aspects of the work of the ITU-R and the WRC-23 and to lead by example by submitting women candidatures for leadership roles at the WRC-23.

Dear friends,

The success of the WRC relies heavily on the preparatory work done by the Regional Groups.

I note CEPT has developed preliminary positions for nearly all agenda items and bands, and even European common proposals for a few WRC Agenda Items.

I am sure that this exquisite Danish Island has been an inspiration for the work of this 5th meeting of CPG23 in reviewing and revising the draft CEPT briefs and ECPS.

I wish you a very fruitful continuation of your meeting.

Thank you very much.