

Council Working Group for WSIS & SDG

Virtual event

19 January 2022

Opening Remarks

Mario Maniewicz
Director, Radiocommunication Bureau

Good morning, afternoon, and evening to all.

My best wishes for a happy and healthy 2022 to you and your families.

It is a pleasure to be speaking to you in the opening of the Council Working Group on WSIS and SDG.

This is a very important meeting since it is the last one of this group before the Plenipotentiary Conference, and I would like to take this opportunity to thank our Chairman, Professor Minkin, for his leadership and his active contribution, not only to the work of this CWG, but to all Sectors of the ITU. In the ITU-R we are very grateful for his continuous support for many years.

Dear Friends,

This Council Working Group touches upon the very the purpose of the work of the ITU: expanding the information and communication infrastructure and the access and use of ICTs as an essential foundation for a sustainable digital world.

The ITU gathers developed and developing countries, public and private sectors, innovators and academia, pioneers that believe in the power of telecommunications to accelerate the implementation of the WSIS Action Lines and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

I have been a supporter of the WSIS Process since its inception. While in my previous role in the BDT, I was directly involved in the implementation of the core WSIS Action Lines, where the ITU is a lead facilitator.

Now, as the Director of the Radiocommunication Bureau, I can assure you that the ITU-R is fully committed with the implementation of WSIS Action Lines and the achievement of the SDGs.

The Radiocommunications Sector of the ITU is working relentlessly to:

- connect all people, enabling access to e-learning, e-employment and e-health;
- connect industries, enabling e-agriculture, e-business, and the development of the industry 4.0;
- and finally ensure ICTs are used for a more sustainable planet.

Within its mandate ITU-R Study Groups contribute to the implementation of WSIS Action Lines through the development and publication of ITU-R Recommendations, Reports and Handbooks, and we have presented in your previous meeting a list of ITU-R publications directly relevant to specific Sustainable Development Goals.

ITU-R has contributed actively to the annual WSIS Forum by organizing workshops and participating in WSIS TalkX sessions on different topics, such as ICTs and civil aviation, radiocommunication and satellites, and new technologies and innovations for ocean conservation. We will continue to strengthen our engagement in the upcoming WSIS Forum 2022.

I look forward to continuing working with you to ensure the purpose of the Union is fulfilled and ICTs are used towards implementing the WSIS Action Lines and achieving the UN digital sustainable development goals.

Thank you very much.