

3rd ITU Inter-regional Workshop on WRC-19 Preparation
Geneva, Switzerland

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Welcome Remarks

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Mr Secretary-General,
Dr Badawi, proposed Chairman for WRC-19,
Excellencies,
Distinguished Chairmen of the regional groups and organizations,
Ladies and gentlemen,
Dear Participants

- It is also my great honour and pleasure to welcome you to this final ITU Inter-regional Workshop on WRC-19 Preparation.
- We have now reached an important landmark towards the WRC-19 Preparation with the completion of the CPM Report and the final steps of the ITU-R studies for WRC-19.
- I should here acknowledge all the efforts put into this process by you, our members, under the very high level and competent leadership of the Chairmen of all responsible groups, Study Groups and the CPM.
- The importance and the volume of the work carried out can be easily measured by the valuable information included in the CPM Report, including different possible solutions to satisfy the WRC-19 agenda items and issues.
- We noted with satisfaction the consensus reached already at CPM19-2 on a number of issues on the WRC-19 Agenda; dealing with some candidate bands around 32 GHz for IMT-2020, or around 5.3 and 5.9 GHz for WAS/RLAN, or for solutions to some satellite regulatory issues.

- Conclusions and way forward have also been agreed on the results of several ITU-R studies regarding on-board sub-orbital vehicles, the Wireless Power Transmission for Electric Vehicles or the spectrum to support the implementation of narrowband and broadband machine-type communication infrastructures.
- These ITU-R studies will continue without the need to change the Radio Regulations.
- The CPM Report could have not been produced without the primary role of the ITU-R Study Groups and responsible groups, which continued to meet even after CPM19-2 to finalize the ITU-R preparatory studies for WRC-19 with the approval of many ITU-R Recommendations and Reports.
- In a few cases, additional work has still to be done, but I am confident that this can be achieved at RA-19; which will still be on time to facilitate the work of the conference.
- Without all these efforts during the last 4 years, we would have not been able to successfully carry out the ITU-R preparatory studies for WRC-19 and provide the ITU Member States with the necessary information to well address the complex topics on the WRC-19 agenda and prepare their proposals and common proposals to the Conference.

Dear Colleagues,

- In parallel to these ITU-R events, several meetings of the Regional Groups were held and we can see how successful this regional preparation has been when we look at the high number of common proposals to the work of the conference that have been received or are being submitted to the Bureau.
- To facilitate the review, analysis and study of the thousands of proposals expected prior to and during WRC-19, the Secretariat has developed and made available new tools on the web.
- We encourage you to continue using these tools such as the Conference Proposal Interface and the Proposal Management System for the preparation, submission, review and analysis of the WRC-19 proposals.

- The recent developments at the regional group meetings are also promising towards reaching additional consensus before WRC-19, and some of them should be brought to our attention in the coming three days.
- I should also mention that the Director's Report to WRC-19 will be made available in the coming days and will contain valuable information for the Delegates, in particular on the difficulties or inconsistencies encountered in the application of the Radio Regulations. The Report will be briefly presented in a few minutes and we hope that Member States will provide solutions to those issues in their proposals to the Conference.

Dear Friends,

- It is obvious that the radiocommunication ecosystem will continue to play a key role in the development of ICTs.
- To adequately satisfy the consumer demand, terrestrial and satellite radio technologies have evolved considerably over the past few decades and will continue to do so.
- New applications have emerged for the benefit of all, and more will come, which we even have difficulties to imagine.
- Advanced mobile broadband, IoT devices, high-altitude platforms, intelligent transport systems; satellite broadband access on moving platforms like ships, planes or trains, use of small satellites or of mega constellations of non-geostationary satellite systems, are all new technologies in demand of radio frequency spectrum.
- Coexistence and spectral efficiency between these systems and applications are crucial. They facilitate the deployment of regional and global networks, enable economies of scale, and make radio equipment and devices more affordable for all countries
- These new technologies and applications will have to co-exist with a number of science services that are using key parts of the frequency spectrum and are equally important to preserve our planet and the life on it.

- These issues and a few more are on the WRC-19 agenda, and I believe that it is only with a global cooperation toward the development of an appropriate international regulatory framework that one of the primary principles of the ITU Constitution will be achieved, that is to avoid harmful interference between radio stations of different countries.

Ladies and gentlemen,

- I will close my remarks by wishing you “bon courage”, with an assurance that the staff of the Bureau present at this Workshop will be pleased to provide any information you might need about the different topics on the WRC-19 Agenda.
- May I offer my very best wishes for an enjoyable stay in Geneva and a successful Workshop.