

TSAG

Virtual event

Opening Remarks

25 October 2021

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Director, Radiocommunication Bureau

Mr. Chairman
TSAG vice-chairs,
Dear participants,

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

I would like to start by thanking the Director of the TSB for the opportunity to address the Telecommunications Standardization Advisory Group. It gives me great pleasure to join you today.

Dear colleagues,

For the past two years we have dealt with the challenges of working in a fully virtual mode, holding remote meetings, and adapting our schedule to different time zones.

During this time, the TSAG has been of utmost importance. It provided strategic perspective and guidance, defined priority topics for ITU-T Study Groups and Focus Groups and strengthened the cooperation within the ITU and between the ITU-T and other standardization organizations.

As from January 2022, the ITU meetings will once again be physical or hybrid. We will be able to benefit from face-to-face interactions, and we must find ways to retain the high level of participation of member states and sector members from developing countries that we have had in virtual meetings as we resume the physical meetings.

Leading the path, the World Telecommunications Standardization Assembly will be the first of the three major conferences that the ITU will hold in 2022.

And as you prepare for a successful WTSA, we are reminded of the social, economic, and technical environment we are living in. COVID has shown that connectivity is as fundamental, as other basic services such as water, and electricity. And the digital economy has become a reality much quicker than we all expected.

The importance of connectivity and digitalization are widely recognized. Nevertheless, several challenges still need to be tackled. New technologies to connect the unconnected must be developed, networks should be deployed, and meaningful content made available through services and applications.

Both the ITU Standardization and Radiocommunication Sectors play a fundamental role in tackling these challenges.

By developing international standards, the ITU supports new technologies and systems, it promotes innovation and investments, and enables the widespread adoption of information, communication, and technologies.

The mapping done by the Inter-Sector Coordination Group, shows how the work of ITU-T and ITU-R Study Groups is complementary.

While the Standardization Sector focuses on topics related to protocols, operation, performance; and produces standards that range from quality of service to security, from future networks to the internet of things, from cloud computing to financial services,

The ITU Radiocommunications Sector focuses on regulations and standards on spectrum and orbit related matters that ensure effective and efficient use of these scarce resources.

Concrete examples of our complementary work, include the development of broadcasting television standards, and the standardization of radio and non-radio aspects of IMT, such as the detailed specifications of IMT-2020, the standardization of the internet of things and of international mobile roaming.

On another front, activities conducted by the ITU-T have a positive impact on the work of the ITU-R.

The AI for good and ITU Kaleidoscope initiatives increase the dialog between the ITU, the Academia and Small & Medium Enterprises.

This year, the AI for Good launched a challenge to optimize 5G networks with AI. And the very first track of the ITU Kaleidoscope focuses on Network infrastructure and architecture, enabling ubiquitous communications. It encompasses future mobile and wireless communications (5G and beyond), real-time performance, and network latency aspects.

These discussions can surely enrich and serve as valuable inputs to the work of the ITU-R Working Party 5D that is developing a report on “Future Technology Trends towards 2030 and beyond.”

Dear friends,

As you can see, the work of the ITU-R and ITU-T goes hand in hand. We develop technical standards that are complementary, the work of one Sector benefits the other, and we now have another opportunity to further improve our collaboration.

As you know, I am leading the secretariat’s support to the CWG-SFP. Therefore, as we begin the process of development of the ITU Strategic and Financial Plans for 2024 to 2027, we have a unique opportunity to receive inputs from our Member States, Sector Members, Academia, and above all, from the Advisory groups, on

how to shape the future of the ITU and take the collaboration between the Sectors yet to another level.

As the Director of the Radiocommunication Bureau I assure you that we will continue working with the Standardization Bureau to further explore the synergies between the Sectors, to better deliver the ITU mission, and to catalyze the power of connectivity and digital transformation for the benefit of all our Members.

And with that, Mr. Chairman, I finalize by wishing you all the best in your preparatory work for the forthcoming WTSA.

Thank you very much.