

3rd Meeting of the APT Conference Preparatory Group for WRC-23

Virtual meeting

Opening remarks

08-13 November 2021

Mario Maniewicz

Director, Radiocommunication Bureau

Mr. Masanori Kondo, Secretary General of the Asia-Pacific Telecommunity,
Dr. Kyu-Jin Wee, Chairman of the APG-23,
Ms. Zhu Keer and Mr. Muneo Abe, Vice-Chairman of the APG-23,
Mr. Kavouss Arasteh, Special Senior Adviser to the APG-23,

Ladies and Gentlemen,

Dear Friends,

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

I would like to start by thanking APT, and in particular Mr. Masanori Kondo, for inviting me to provide opening remarks in this 3rd Meeting of the APT Conference Preparatory Group for WRC-23.

I am very pleased to address you today, in what might hopefully be the last APG virtual meeting.

As Mr. Kondo has stated in previous occasions: “this region has great abilities and potential.” I fully agree with him. Many of the latest technological advancements adopted throughout the world were built upon the strengths of this region. And I am confident that the development of international regulations and standards will leverage even further this potential.

I thus congratulate you on the ongoing preparations for WRC-23. I thank you for your support to the work of the ITU-R in general, and in particular to the ongoing work of the ITU-R study groups.

Dear colleagues,

As you know, the beginning of the ITU-R study cycle coincided with the beginning of the COVID pandemic. And for almost two years, we have been holding online meetings. 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.

Now that we can say that we have mastered the technicalities of online platforms, I am very pleased to announce that we will soon return to physical meetings. In fact, they 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.

The ITU has planned the first physical meeting in Geneva still this year – the WTPF-21. And 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.

I expect that being face-to-face will help further advance our work. We have successfully achieved several milestones already. Sharing and compatibility studies are being developed using the agreed characteristics and parameters of services and applications. 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.

I note that the region has already developed APT Preliminary Views for almost all WRC-23 agenda items which shows that good progress is being made also at the regional level.

The studies and regulatory solutions developed both in the ITU and in APT will feed the CPM text and ultimately form the basis for the decisions of WRC-23.

As you know, the dates of the 2023 World Radiocommunication Conference have been confirmed. And the conference will take place from the 20 November

to 15 December 2023, preceded by the 2023 Radiocommunication Assembly. WRC-23 will take place in the United Arab Emirates either in Abu Dhabi or Dubai.

Dear participants,

I am glad to report that the WRC-23 Informal Group has already been established, and held its first meeting virtually in June, this year. The informal group, chaired by Mr. Kavouss Arasteh, 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 - similar to what was done in previous WRCs. It goes without saying that the conference itself will be chaired by the UAE, as it is customary when we have a host country for our conference. The second WRC-23 Informal Group meeting is scheduled in December alongside the Inter-regional workshop on WRC-23 preparation.

And talking about the Inter-regional workshop, I take this opportunity to invite you to the Inter-regional Workshop on WRC-23 Preparation, which will be held from the 13th to the 15th of December, as an online event. And I invite Dr. Kyu-Jin Wee, to participate and to nominate representatives of the regional group to join the different roundtables on the specific WRC-23 agenda items and topics. The workshop will provide up-to-date information regarding the on-going ITU-R preparatory studies for WRC-23 and present the preliminary draft common views, positions, or proposals from the regional groups and other main international organizations and relevant stakeholders.

On another aspect of the preparation for WRC-23, I want to acknowledge the Regional NOW4WRC23 activities led by Ms Zhu Keer. I note that the APG Network of Women has a session today covering ITU activities and the APG mentoring program. And I encourage the participation of mentors and mentees. By sharing experience and empowering women within national and regional delegations we will increase the number of women participating and taking leadership roles in the international arena.

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.

Nevertheless, it will also be a very important year for the advancement of ITU-R studies. I count on the expertise of APG to support these studies and you can also count on the full support of the BR to conduct the work on the preparation for WRC-23.

I wish you a very productive meeting and I am looking forward to receiving APG colleagues and friends once again at the ITU Headquarters in Geneva in the beginning of 2022.

Thank you very much