

4th Meeting of the APT Conference Preparatory Group for WRC-23

Bangkok, Thailand

Opening Remarks

15 August 2022

Mario Maniewicz

Director, Radiocommunication Bureau

Mr. Masanori Kondo, Secretary General of the APT,
Dr. Kyu-Jin Wee, Chairman of the APG23,
Ms. Zhu Keer and Mr. Muneo Abe, Vice-chairs of the APG23,
Mr. Kavouss Arasteh, Special Senior Adviser to the APG-23,
Distinguished delegates,
Good morning.

I would like to start by thanking the Asia-Pacific Telecommunity for the kind invitation. It is a pleasure to provide opening remarks in this 4th Meeting of the APT Conference Preparatory Group for WRC-23.

I had the opportunity to be here in Bangkok just a couple of weeks ago for the APT Preparatory Group for PP-22, and I am delighted to be back already in this vibrant city!

Dear colleagues,

Similarly to the APT, the ITU has also resumed physical meetings and conferences. Our headquarters are once again filled with delegates attending the meetings in-person without any significant health-related consequences.

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 also had its benefits. They removed the travel cost barrier and were an effective way to overcome travel restrictions.

So as to accommodate all, we will continue to offer remote participation for the upcoming meetings, even though the meetings will be held in a physical format within the normal working hours for meetings held in the ITU headquarters.

Moreover, 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, thus supporting 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 the 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 to holding fully virtual meetings throughout the preparatory period for WRC-27.

I am certain that you share my belief that such a situation should be avoided and that the radiocommunication sector needs to come together to ensure we are able to prepare properly for WRC-27.

Mr. Chairman,

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

Some ITU-R working parties have already concluded the draft CPM text, while others have 2 more months to do so, to allow for sufficient time for the translation of hundreds of pages into the 6 official languages of the Union.

I encourage the delegates to 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.

Dear colleagues,

Concerning the dates and the venue of the Second Session of the Conference Preparatory Meeting, the CPM23-2 will be held at the end of March 2023, in the CICG in Geneva.

A minimum of two months prior to the date scheduled for the second session of the CPM, the consolidated draft CPM Report shall be made available in electronic format.

The dates of the WRC have also been confirmed from the 20 November to 15 December 2023. And I am pleased to announce that the conference will take place in Dubai, in the United Arab Emirates.

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

Before concluding,

Allow me to congratulate the initiative of the APT to provide a Training course on preparation for international conferences, where the wisdom built throughout the years by more experienced delegates is being passed over to the newcomers. This will surely provide new participants with a better understanding of the structure of international conferences, the preparation process, and the negotiation framework as a whole.

From our side, the ITU is organizing the Regional Radiocommunication Seminar 2022 for Asia-Pacific that is planned to take place in Fiji on December this year. It will be a great opportunity to explore concepts related to international spectrum management and the procedures for recording of frequency assignments in the international frequency register.

I also encourage APT members to continue their participation in the NOW4WRC23 initiative and to strive to achieve women's full participation in all aspects of the work of the ITU-R and, in particular, at the WRC-23.

Dear friends,

Physical meetings have enabled delegates to better clarify their positions and to facilitate informal discussions towards finding compromise solutions. Being face-to-face has brought back the friendly and respectful atmosphere we were used to in the ITU and I am sure this will continue to be the case from now on.

As APT Members, Associate Members, Affiliate Members, International and Regional Organizations gather today, I invite you to acknowledge the importance

of the preparatory work APT is conducting. Finding a common ground regionally, is the first step towards achieving global agreements.

As it has been the case in the past, I once again count on the Regional organizations to play a fundamental role in the success of WRC-23.

I wish you a very fruitful meeting and I thank you for your kind attention.