

30th Meeting of the ITU-R Radiocommunication Advisory Group (RAG)
Geneva, Switzerland

Monday, 1 May 2023

Opening Remarks

Mario Maniewicz
Director, Radiocommunication Bureau

Mr. Tomas Lamanuskas, ITU Deputy Secretary-General
Mr. Seizo Onoe, TSB Director
Mr. Daniel Obam, Chairman Radiocommunication Advisory Group,
Vice Chairs of the Radiocommunication Advisory Group,
Ladies and Gentlemen,

I am pleased to welcome you all to the 30th Meeting of the Radiocommunication Advisory Group. A warm welcome to those who are joining us remotely, and I hope that the time difference with your respective time zones won't be too much of a challenge.

I would like to start my remarks by expressing my deep appreciation to the Chairman of the Radiocommunication Advisory Group, Mr. Daniel Obam.

Mr Obam has served as chair of the RAG for two terms and, in accordance with the ITU convention, his tenure will come to an end at the end of this study period. In fact, Mr. Obam has chaired the RAG since May 2016, steered this group during one of the most difficult times brought about by the COVID-19, pandemic and managed to ensure the advisory group remained fully engaged to deliver on our obligations to our membership.

We have counted with his experience and his wisdom throughout these years and on my behalf and that of the entire ITU-R Membership, I convey our gratitude for his outstanding leadership.

Let us all give him a round of applause....., Thank you.

I hope that this is not the end, Daniel. We look forward to your continued engagement with the ITU-R.

Distinguished Delegates,

This RAG meeting is the last before the upcoming World Radiocommunication Conference, which will be held from 20 November to 15 December 2023 in Dubai, United Arab Emirates.

Preparations for the conference have been proceeding as scheduled. Last month, our membership completed a crucial step of the preparatory process during the Second Session of the 2023 Conference Preparatory Meeting, by finalizing and approving the CPM report. In that regard, I am pleased to inform you that the CPM Report is already available in the English version, and other languages will be posted as they become ready, around mid-May.

The ITU-R Study Groups, Working Parties, and Task Groups worked diligently during a very difficult study period to conduct studies of regulatory, technical, operational, and procedural nature and to develop draft CPM texts.

The CPM Report as it stands, will inform and aid ITU Member States in their preparation for WRC-23, offering the basis for the decisions that will be taken at the Conference.

Distinguished Colleagues,

As you are aware, the principal roles of the Radiocommunication Advisory Group are, inter alia, to review priorities, programmes, operations, financial matters, and strategies related to Radiocommunication Assemblies, Study Groups and the preparation of Radiocommunication Conferences, and any specific matters as directed by a conference of the Union, a Radiocommunication Assembly, or the Council.

The RAG also recommends measures to foster cooperation and coordination with other standards bodies, with the Telecommunication Standardization Sector, the Telecommunication Development Sector, and the General Secretariat.

At this 30th meeting of the Radiocommunication Advisory Group, we will continue the consideration such topics that are under the purview of the RAG.

To this end, the BR has submitted a Report to this meeting providing information on Plenipot and Council matters, on the activities of the ITU-R Study Groups, and on the RA, WRC and CPM preparations, the status of development of software, publications and the organization of seminars and workshops.

The draft ITU-R Operational Plan for the period of 2023-2026 will also be presented.

I am pleased to see that both chairs of the RAG Correspondence Groups have remained active over the past year and will report on the progress of the work of their groups.

The meeting will consider the Report of Correspondence Group 1 on the implementation of the WRC-19 Gender Declaration on Promoting Gender Equality, Equity and Parity in the ITU Radiocommunication Sector, and the draft of a new resolution on Gender to be considered at the next Radiocommunication Assembly (RA-23).

Regarding the Correspondence Group 2, on Possible Revisions of Resolution ITU-R 1-8, the RAG will consider a report of their activities. More specifically the advancements in discussions with regard to the adoption and approval of recommendations, considering the establishment of a maximum term of office for ITU-R Working Party Chairs, and the course of action for the agreement of draft new or revised Reports.

Mr. Chairman,

I have always counted on the guidance of the RAG to help progress the work in the BR and ITU-R, and I am sure that this time, when we approach the end of a new cycle, it will not be any different.

I look forward to a very productive and successful meeting ahead.

Thank you for your attention.