

**Signing Ceremony of WRC-23 Host Country Agreement  
between ITU and the United Arab Emirate**

Bucharest, Romania (during PP-22)

**Opening Remarks**

*30 September 2022*

**Mario Maniewicz**

**Director, Radiocommunication Bureau**

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His Excellency, Engineer Majed Sultan Al Mesmar, Director General of the UAE Telecommunications and Digital Government Regulatory Authority (TDRA)

ITU Secretary General and fellow Elected Officials,

Excellencies, Distinguished guests,

Ladies and gentlemen,

I am delighted to welcome you to this brief but very important event on the hosting of the next Radiocommunication Assembly (RA-23), the World Radiocommunication Conference of 2023 (WRC-23) and the Conference Preparatory Meeting (CPM 27-1) in the city of Dubai, in the United Arab Emirates.

Dear friends,

It is not the first time that the UAE hosts a major conference of the United Nations specialized agency for ICTs. 4 years ago, many of us attended the Plenipotentiary Conference of 2018 in the Emirates.

Personally, I must say that I have very good memories of the beautiful reception in the desert, the world-class conference facilities in Dubai, and of the plenipotentiary

conference itself – At that time I was elected for my First term as the Director of the Radiocommunication Bureau.

Today, on behalf of all members of the ITU Radiocommunication Sector, I would like to thank very much the Government of the United Arab Emirates and the UAE Telecommunications and Digital Government Regulatory Authority (TDRA) for their generous invitation to host WRC-23.

Dear colleagues,

The World Radiocommunication Conference provides the ITU Member States with the opportunity to update the Radio Regulations, the international treaty which governs the use of frequency spectrum and associated satellite orbits.

The international regulatory framework provides a solid foundation for introducing new, innovative technologies while simultaneously ensuring that all radio systems can coexist without receiving harmful interference.

The four years of the preparatory process, extensive studies, and technical discussions for WRC-23 will have taken place almost entirely during the period of the COVID-19 pandemic. I must commend all ITU Member States, ITU-R Sector members, Associates and Academia, supported by my colleagues in the Radiocommunications Bureau, for their hard work and perseverance in keeping the preparatory work toward WRC-23 on track. Many ITU-R delegates attended meetings in the wee hours of the morning and late into the night. I thank you for your dedication.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

We are all very much looking forward to being back in the land of the visionary the visionary Sheikh Zayed Al Nahyan. A land where diplomacy has proven successful. A place that unites people of different nationalities. Where people are known for their enormous hospitality.

I am sure we are in very good hands, and I am confident of the success of WRC-23.

I look forward to seeing you all in Dubai next year.