

**Special session of the 29th meeting of the
Radiocommunication Advisory Group**

Virtual event

Opening Remarks

24 February 2022

**Mario Maniewicz
Director, Radiocommunication Bureau**

Good morning, good afternoon, and good evening

RAG Chairman, Daniel Obam,

Distinguished participants,

It is my pleasure to welcome you to this special session of the twenty-ninth meeting of the Radiocommunication Advisory Group that is dedicated to the review of the Draft ITU-R Strategic and Financial Plans.

Let me start by thanking all the participants for having joined us today, as well as acknowledging our chairman, Mr. Daniel Obam, for his leadership of this group. I would also like to express my gratitude to Mr. Frederique Sauvage, Chairman of the CWG-SFP, for having accepted to join us today to inform the RAG on the progress made by the CWG in developing the draft ITU Strategic Plan for 2024-2027.

In this session, we will focus on reviewing the Draft ITU-R Strategic Plan. We will also discuss plans for returning to holding the 2022 ITU-R meetings physically with significant remote participation and the working methods to ensure that those meetings are efficient and productive for all delegates.

Regarding the first topic, allow me to share with you the progress that the ITU Council Working Group on the Strategic and Financial Plans has made in the preparation of a Draft ITU Strategic and Financial Plans for 2024-2027.

The Member States, after long analysis and discussions, with the support of the three Sectors and the General Secretariat, developed a draft Strategic Plan for 2024-2027 that is intended to be simpler, clearer, and more focused on ITU's mandate.

Member States participating in the CWG-SFP have further reviewed the draft in their latest meeting, which took place this week. Today we will receive a report on the outcome of that meeting, which should further inform the RAG's review. Personally, I am pleased that the work of the ITU-R is now more clearly evidenced in the ITU Strategic Plan.

Let me highlight some of the changes from the current to the new (draft) Strategic Plan:

- In general terms, the ITU Strategic Plan reflects the work of the ITU as a whole, while the Operational Plan dives into the details of how resources are allocated to each Sectoral and Intersectoral objective.
- The framework has kept the Vision and Mission unchanged.
- The five strategic goals were consolidated into two goals that are more meaningful to the work of the ITU, namely "universal connectivity" and "sustainable digital transformation".
- The terminology has slightly changed and what we used to refer to as "objectives" are now described as "thematic priorities".
- "Spectrum and Satellite orbits" and "Infrastructure and Services" are the thematic priorities that reflect most closely the work of the Radiocommunication Sector, along with their associated outcomes.
- The next level of the framework consists of the products and service offerings of the ITU. The "Development and application of international regulations", "Allocation and management of resources", "development of international standards", "capacity development" and the "provision of technical assistance" encompass most of the work of the ITU-R.
- Finally, the enablers reflect how the ITU works.

An important part that remains to be finalized in the Strategic Plan is the targets and outcome indicators. The draft Results Framework including the Target and Outcome Indicators, to be incorporated in Section 3: Results Framework of the draft strategic plan, after the endorsement of the strategic goals, targets and thematic priorities is presented in document 39Add1 and will be presented to this meeting for your consideration.

Your contribution to the Draft ITU-R Strategic and Financial Plans in general, and to the outcome indicators, in particular, will feed into the broader work of the Council Working Group and I am sure will be very much appreciated.

Dear colleagues,

The second topic to be addressed today is also very important, and it is the consequence of the fact that we will soon be able to return to physical ITU-R meetings, which will now count on the added feature of enhanced remote participation. Indeed, I am pleased to share with you that last week, the Swiss Federation Council lifted virtually all of the COVID-19 related measures, which will facilitate travel to Geneva for all delegates from around the world.

Of course, we will ensure a safe environment for those who come to participate physically. But as importantly, we want to address the needs of those who cannot come to Geneva and will participate remotely. Our main goal is to allow the work of the ITU-R to progress more productively and efficiently.

We will therefore discuss during this RAG meeting, the planned measures for ITU-R meetings which are provided for your consideration, in document RAG/INFO/9.

Cognizant that many delegates might not be able to attend physical ITU-R meetings, our objective is for the meetings to be conducted in such a way that, to the greatest extent practicable, all delegates can participate in the meetings on an equal footing regardless of whether they are present in Geneva or connected remotely.

With that Mr Chairman,

And in the interest of time, I would like to thank the RAG for the useful guidance they always provide to me and the BR, and I wish you a very productive meeting.

Thank you very much.