

TSAG-2022

Virtual event

Opening Remarks

10 January 2022

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Mr. Chairman,
Secretary General,
Fellow Directors,
Participants and friends,

Good morning, good afternoon, and good evening.

As this last TSAG meeting of the cycle opens the calendar of events of the ITU, I take the opportunity to wish you all a happy New Year.

The world today is very different from what it was two years ago. The pandemic accelerated the adoption of new digital technologies and the shift to an all-embracing online world – where health, education, entertainment, consumption, socialization, and work found its place online.

The digital and the physical worlds now go very much hand-in-hand.

While the digital world that is being created uses artificial intelligence, virtual reality, digital twins and digital identity, the physical world consists of broadband networks, sensor networks, machine-to-machine communications, cloud computing, and even quantum technologies.

The digital world relies on the infrastructure of the physical world to provide services, applications, and experiences. It depends on the wide-spread deployment of ICT infrastructure everywhere: in urban, suburban, and rural

areas, in homes and in factories, for transport systems and for utilities, throughout cities and countries.

On the other hand, the physical world can benefit from the digital world to provide more efficient and effective services.

In the ITU, we are working to ensure both worlds can be used for the benefit of society, environment, and economies.

Dear colleagues,

The “new normal”, as many call it, will signify a renewal, a profound change, a historical moment of transformation.

It is in this context that the ITU-T and the ITU-R are well positioned to bring together decision makers, regulators, manufacturers, operators, SMEs, academia, and all relevant stakeholders to develop technical standards that will shape the future of the ICT landscape.

Standards and regulations developed by the ITU-R and the ITU-T define new architectures, new technical and operational requirements to ensure telecommunications have adequate quality and security, are interoperable, are affordable and accessible to all, and radiocommunication systems can operate free from harmful interference.

The international framework promotes the development and widespread deployment of telecommunications infrastructure to address the needs of people, industry, and the planet.

The forthcoming WTSA will open the path to a series of major conferences that the ITU will hold in 2022.

In this important year, the ITU can leverage its leadership role to address the social need of connecting all people around the world.

It can promote a more inclusive and sustainable industrialization and innovation to recover our economies.

And can tackle the environmental challenge of reducing ICT and e-waste adverse environmental effects and foster the use of communication services to monitor life below water, life on land, and climate action.

Working together, ITU-R and ITU-T Members can develop policies, regulations, and standards towards the implementation of the UN 2030 agenda and the achievement of ambitious sustainable development goals.

As the Director of the ITU Radiocommunication Bureau, I am personally thrilled by the challenge we face and by the opportunity of making a difference in our world. As we have done in the past, the ITU-R will continue contributing and supporting the work of the ITU-T in the many fronts where our work intertwines.

Dear friends,

I truly believe that our work, in partnership with other organizations, can provide the opportunity for all people to benefit from both digital and physical worlds, wherever they live, and whatever their means.

Thank you very much.