

## **Meeting of Study Group 7 (SG 7)**

Geneva, Switzerland

**Wednesday, 5 June 2019**

### ***Opening Remarks***

**Mario Maniewicz**

**Director, Radiocommunication Bureau**

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Mister Chairman,  
Dear friends and colleagues,

Good morning. It is a real pleasure to welcome you all to Geneva for this meeting of Study Group 7. I would like to thank you all and, in particular, the Chairman of Study Group 7, Mr. Zuzek, along with the Chairmen of the various working parties, Mr. Beard, Mr. Kaufman, Mr. Dreis and Mr. Tzioumis, for the excellent progress achieved in the last 4 years during this study cycle. I hope that all of you will continue your fruitful contributions for the future success of the work of ITU-R Study Group 7.

Indeed, with 26 revised and 2 new recommendations as well as 10 new reports approved by Study Group 7 during the last 4 years, it gives me pleasure to note that your achievements are a very good example of efficient collaboration in developing internationally used standards to provide appropriate resources for the further development of space science, meteorology and radio astronomy. I am also aware of the fact that many studies have been carried out in preparation for the most efficient way to use the future time scale to support the digital economy.

I am pleased as well to note our efficient collaboration with other international and regional organizations, such as the World Meteorological Organization. I believe that the new MoU between WMO and ITU is a new step forward towards enhancing our fruitful collaboration, and in particular towards achieving the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). Our joint workshop clearly indicated areas of common interest and we are fully supportive of the need to protect the spectrum requirements of the meteorological community. As you know, we have recently issued a special edition of the ITU News magazine devoted to passive sensing, which has been a definite success, helping administrations understand the specific requirements of the scientific community and its socio-economic value and importance for the public interest.

This year is a very important one for the ITU-R community in view of the RA-19 and WRC-19. The 2019 Radiocommunication Assembly promises to be very interesting in trying to discuss issues of simplification and improvement in our processes in order to accommodate existing challenges of evolving technology and increases in spectrum demand, to ensure we fulfill ITU's main mission – to ensure rational, equitable, efficient and economical use of the radio frequency spectrum.

On the other hand, the 2019 World Radiocommunication Conference will be a somewhat challenging one for the scientific community. Despite the very good preparation regarding the three agenda items in which Study Group 7 has been involved in promoting a framework for further science services development, a number of other agenda items can have a potential impact in frequency bands that are currently used for remote sensing and Earth observation purposes. Having said that, I strongly believe that WRC-19 will be able to find the right balance between new requirements for telecommunications services and the protection of critical current spectrum use.

I would note that the Chairman of WP 7B, Mr. Kaufman, has decided to enjoy life without spectrum management after many useful years of ITU activity. For us, it will be a big challenge to find someone to take this position and continue the success of WP 7B. I would like to thank Mr. Kaufman for all of his efforts over these many years and for his invaluable contributions to the success of WP 7B, and I wish him many years of happy retirement.

In closing, I would like to wish you all excellent summer holidays and I am looking forward to see you in Sharm el Sheikh as well as during the next study cycle.

Thank you very much for your attention.