

31st meeting of ASMG
Kingdom of Bahrain

9-14 September 2023

Opening Remarks

Mario Maniewicz
Director, Radiocommunication Bureau

Mr. Tariq AL AWADHI, Chairman, Arab Spectrum Management Group (ASMG)

Mr. Mohammed Al-Ramsi, Chairman-designate, WRC-23

Mr. Philip Marnick, Director General, Telecommunication Regulatory Authority of Bahrain (TRA)

Distinguished delegates,

Ladies and Gentlemen,

Good morning.

Mr. Chairman,

I thank you for the opportunity to address this 31st meeting of the Arab Spectrum Management Group.

It is a great pleasure for me to be here in Bahrain, a Kingdom that sits at the crossroads of ancient civilizations and a modern digital society. The country's guiding principles of sustainability, fairness, and competitiveness, of its economic vision for 2030, resonates perfectly with our work in the field of radiocommunications and the management of spectrum and orbital resources.

Ladies and gentlemen,

At the onset, my deepest condolences go to the delegations of Morocco and Libia here present, for the recent catastrophes that their populations have had to endure during the past few days.

Going back to the topics under consideration in this meeting, I would like to express my appreciation to the commitment and efforts exhibited by all members of the ASMG throughout this study cycle.

It has not been an easy cycle, but the culmination of our common endeavour is at hand!

Surely this final meeting of the study cycle will be key to finalizing regional proposals for WRC-23 agenda items and topics.

By engaging in fruitful conversations and constructive discussions you can foster the consolidation of regional proposals, propelling the approval of global agreements.

Distinguished delegates,

As we embark on the final preparations for the Radiocommunication Assembly and the World Radiocommunication Conference of 2023, I would like to highlight several important points that deserve our attention.

During this study cycle, several of you have approached me to suggest ways in which our work could be made more efficient and effective. The RA will be an opportunity to propose such changes to ITU-R working methods and processes.

The RA will also have a critical role in appointing the Chairs and Vice-Chairs of ITU-R Study Groups, Coordination Committee for Vocabulary, Conference Preparatory Meeting, and the Radiocommunication Advisory Group for the four years to come. All the necessary details on this matter are available in BR Administrative Circular number 1058.

While we cannot disregard the geopolitical landscape in which the conference will take place, I invite you to focus on the technical competence of the candidates and on the principles of geographical distribution, as well as those contained in the Gender Declaration approved in WRC-19.

The success of the RA will ensure a smooth and positive transition to WRC-23, which will be of utmost importance for the technical development of radiocommunication services.

In fact, the decisions made during the conference will lead to numerous investments in areas such as terrestrial and satellite broadband, emergency services, space research services amongst others.

Dear colleagues,

Looking even further ahead to WRC-27, and more specifically to Agenda Item 10, it is evident that there is a growing number of proposals for future agenda items.

In this regard, it is essential to follow closely the principles defined in Resolution 804, which emphasize that agenda items should address worldwide or regional issues beyond the interests of a single administration or company.

Regional organizations are also expected to provide an indication of priority when submitting proposals for the conference agenda.

Furthermore, if an issue can be resolved without amending the Radio Regulations, it should be addressed through actions undertaken by the ITU-R Study Groups.

These principles will alleviate the burden on WRCs while ensuring efficient work within ITU-R study groups – which has become even more relevant in a scenario where we need to manage the budgetary resources associated with each subject effectively.

Mr. Chairman,

Study Groups and Working Parties are conducting their final meetings of the cycle in September and October and are finalizing their respective studies. During this period, the BR secretariat is collecting relevant outcomes such as Recommendations and Reports, to prepare the inputs to RA-23.

I note that the Report of the Director on the activities of the Radiocommunication Sector has been made available in Document 4, together with the Reports of the RRB to WRC-23 on Resolutions 35 (WRC-19) and 80 (Rev.WRC-07). Administrations and regional groups are invited to consider the information included in these documents to prepare relevant proposals for WRC-23.

With respect to the Director's Report, Addendum 2 of the Report may require your particular attention. It presents the difficulties and inconsistencies encountered by the Bureau in the application of the Radio Regulations.

Among the most challenging topics, the Report includes the registration of mobile stations in the Master Register, the No. 21.5 issue, recommendations on prevention and mitigation of harmful interference to RNSS and proposes possible suppression of the publication of API/C for satellite networks.

The Bureau has carefully analysed these topics and brings them to the attention and consideration of WRC-23, together with specific proposals or solutions. It would be useful that WRC-23 decides on a specific action for each item raised in the reports.

It is also worth mentioning that this year several entities of the ITU Radiocommunication Sector, including the RRB, RAG, and Study Group 4, have raised a pressing need for improvements in the ITU regulatory framework related to satellite communications to ensure its sustainable development, especially for non-geostationary networks.

The Report of the CPM to WRC-23 is also available for information in Document 3 of the Conference and in the Conference Proposal Interface (CPI) tool for WRC-23. I would strongly encourage the use of the CPI tool when developing regional and national proposals with changes to the Radio Regulations. By utilizing this tool, we can ensure accuracy and efficiency in the processing of input contributions. Let us make the most of this valuable resource.

Furthermore, sending your contributions in advance will help the smooth progress of our preparations and will avoid last-minute processing and translation of contributions in six languages during the final 3 weeks prior to the conference.

I also recall that WRC-23 and RA-23 will be in-person conferences and remote participation will not be supported. However, streaming of the meetings with interpretation will be available online.

Finally, the third ITU-R Interregional workshop on WRC-23 is confirmed from the 27 to 29 of September in Geneva. You are all very welcome to attend.

On that occasion, the WRC-23 informal group will also meet and is expected to finalize the relatively stable informal preliminary draft structure of WRC-23.

In preparing for this 5th meeting of the informal group, the regional organizations are invited to continue consultations in order to propose unique candidates to chair Committees, Working Groups, or Sub-Groups on agenda items or topics, and to consider additional candidates regarding vacant positions, bearing in mind the WRC-23 informal group Chairman's Note.

Ladies and gentlemen,

Allow me to end these remarks by expressing my deepest gratitude to the Arab Region for its continuous support of the ITU. Holding a WRC is a monumental undertaking, and the Arab Region has assumed this responsibility with excellence for a second consecutive time. Thank you very much.

Mr. Chairman,

I wish your meeting constructive and fruitful discussions.

Thank you.