

## **3<sup>rd</sup> meeting of Study Group 3 in Study Period 2019-2023**

*Physical Meeting (with remote participation)*

**13 June 2022**

*Opening Speech*

**Mario Maniewicz**  
**Director, Radiocommunication Bureau**

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Madam Chair,

Dear Delegates,

It is my pleasure to welcome you to the 3<sup>rd</sup> meeting of Study Group 3 in this study cycle. I am happy to observe that we have finally replaced virtual meetings with in-person meetings, albeit still with a considerable number of remote participants. It is my fervent hope that in-person meetings will remain the norm and that remote participants will once more consider joining the meetings physically and that those who were subject to travel restrictions will soon be liberated from such restrictions.

Once more, I would like to start by expressing my gratitude to the chairman, Mrs. Carol Wilson, for continuing to lead this group, as well as my sincere appreciation to the Vice-Chairmen of Study Group 3 for their support. I learnt with concern that Mrs Wilson and two Working Party Chairmen, Mr Paul McKenna of Working Party 3K and Mr Christopher Behm of Working Party 3L were unable to travel and resume their duties in-person due to ill-health. However, despite their medical conditions, they continued to show their total devotion and sense of duty by continuing to preside over their respective groups remotely, for which I would like to thank them especially.

I would also like to thank the Chairmen of Working Parties 3J and 3M, Prof Carlo Riva and Ms Clare Allen who were able to participate in-person. The Working Party Chairmen, whether in person or remote, have again ensured the necessary support and enabled the close cooperation between the four working parties.

Lastly, but not the least, I would also like to thank the working group and drafting group chairmen, as well as all delegates for their participation and contribution to the working parties of Study Group 3, recognizing that the longer meeting hours benefitted participants as there were fewer meeting clashes. However, these hours have also made it more difficult for remote participants.

Study Group 3 has once more carried away the honours as the study group with the ITU-R recommendation series with the highest number of downloads as was reported at the meeting of RAG in April. This fact reconfirms that Study Group 3 and its working parties maintain their importance and position as reference in the entire international radiocommunication industry (technical and academic).

While the world pandemic continued to preclude the convening of in-person meetings, the 33 correspondence groups of the working parties of Study Group 3 continued to perform in an expanded capacity and accomplished a large part of the work during the intersessional period by online discussion sessions and via correspondence. Without these efforts it would have been impossible for the working parties to achieve the results obtained. I would like to express my sincere appreciation for the tireless efforts of the correspondence group chairmen and all the delegates who participated in and contributed to these essential activities, noting that for many of you this required working during very difficult hours and conditions.

Since their previous meetings in 2021, the working parties of Study Group 3 continued to provide essential support on the issue of radio wave propagation prediction to many ITU-R Working Parties in their preparation for WRC-23. Specifically, the working parties continued to provide guidance in liaison statements and further revised recommendations where appropriate. In this regard, I would like to highlight that these efforts for model development have only been possible because of measurements programmes of administrations, organisations and academia. The world pandemic continued to severely curtail your efforts to provide these measurements, and this made your contributions all the more appreciated. In particular, I note with appreciation the contributions of measurements for Earth-space paths, radio-meteorological parameters, short-distance indoor and outdoor environments, and those for radio wave propagation through clutter, amongst others. It has come to my attention that some of these measurement activities made use of innovative

measurement equipment and techniques, including the use of helicopters. In this regard, I notice that the working parties of Study Group 3 have identified increased interest in radiocommunication services in frequency bands above 100 GHz and have launched a pre-emptive consultation of the other working parties in ITU-R to identify services and systems for which radio wave propagation prediction methods would need to be developed on a priority basis. As the development of such methods could potentially take a long period, I would encourage and invite administrations, organizations, and academia to perform and submit relevant measurements results in these technically difficult frequency bands, so as to provide a sound basis for the development of these methods.

A subject that is repeatedly raised, is the importance of the work of Study Group 3 and its Working Parties in the scientific and academic communities. This year is no exception, and I am proud to announce renewed efforts to strengthen collaboration between the ITU-R, in particular the ITU-R Study Groups, and the International Union of Radio Science (URSI). In this context URSI has adopted a number of resolutions and created an URSI-ITU Inter-Commission Working Group in which some of you would serve or be called to serve as members. I wish you every success in this effort.

The working parties of Study Group 3 continue to maintain and provide new and updated software implementations and validation examples of methods in the P-series Recommendations as well as data sets to complement the information provided in P-series recommendations and reports. This year I note with satisfaction continued efforts in support of these digital products that have proven to be extremely useful in the radiocommunications community and that remain widely appreciated and recognized.

As you know, the demolition of the Varembe building will commence in 2023 to make way for the new ITU building. During the period 2023-2026, this demolition and construction work will disrupt the normal convening of meetings in ITU Headquarters. Although efforts are underway to find alternative venues for our meetings, other options would be to receive invitations to host meetings outside Geneva or to host meetings fully virtually. Having experienced the limitations of virtual meetings over the past two years, invitations to host

meetings could be considered the better alternative and would be received with gratitude.

In closing, I would like to recognize once more that the excellent cooperative spirit and collaboration between the working parties of Study Group 3 serve as an example to other working parties and are instrumental to ensure the considerable successes that you have achieved in a consensual manner.

I want to assure on you again that the staff of the Bureau will continue to actively support you in your efforts to enhance the radio wave propagation prediction methods and models, which is key in the building of a sustainable ecosystem.

Thank you for your attention. I wish you a very successful meeting.