

RA-23

Dubai, United Arab Emirates

Closing Remarks

17 November 2023

Mario Maniewicz
Director, Radiocommunication Bureau

Excellencies,

Madam Chair,

Madame Secretary-General,

Ladies and gentlemen,

Dear colleagues,

It is my pleasure to address you at the conclusion of this memorable Assembly. Significant accomplishments have been achieved, and the outcomes of your efforts will establish the framework for the activities of the ITU Radiocommunication Study Groups in the upcoming four-year study period.

Allow me to highlight key achievements from these intensive five days:

- RA-23 has approved a crucial revision to the text of Resolution ITU-R 1-8, which contains the working methods of ITU-R. Notable topics addressed include the appointment procedure and the maximum term of office for Chairs of the Working Parties.
- Additionally, the RA-23 approved a new ITU-R Resolution on promoting gender equality and equity, aiming to bridge the contribution and participation gap between women and men in ITU-R activities.

- Both of those resolutions are the product of work that was carried out over four years in two RAG Correspondence Groups and finalized here at the RA. I extend my sincere thanks to everyone who has been involved in developing and agreeing on both Resolutions.
- Carrying out another important mandate of Radiocommunication Assemblies, RA-23 revised Resolution ITU-R 5-8 which established the work programme and questions for the Radiocommunication Study Groups for 2024-2027.
- Noting the importance of the work in the ITU-R Study Group 3, the RA-23 revised Resolution ITU-R 8-3 to promote the participation of engineers and scientists from developing countries in propagation campaigns in tropical and subtropical regions of the world for which there is a lack of data.
- Noteworthy is the approval of the new ITU-R Resolution on Space Sustainability, focusing on the work within the mandate of the ITU related to the sustainable use of radio-frequency spectrum and associated satellite-orbit resources used by space services. This will be supportive of further cooperation with other UN organizations and beneficial to the satellite industry.
- The RA-23 approved a landmark Recommendation outlining the framework for IMT-2030, as well as subsequent revisions to resolutions on the naming for IMT and on the principles for the process of future development of IMT 2020 and IMT-2030. Even a new Resolution on the use of IMT technologies for Fixed Wireless Broadband was approved.
- This RA also concluded successfully the work on a new Recommendation on the protection of radionavigation-satellite service by the amateur and amateur-satellite services. Praise has to be given to the experts involved to achieve this amazing result.

- Additionally, RA-23 discussed aspects of the CPM process under Resolution 2 to enhance the efficiency of the second session of the CPM. This topic will be further considered during the upcoming study cycle.

The difficult work performed in the ITU-R Study Groups requires dedication, technical competence, organizational and managerial talent, and tremendous patience from the leadership of the Study Groups and their Working Parties. This RA sees the retirements of a number of our long-time dedicated Chairs whose contribution to the ITU Radiocommunication Sector has been immeasurable. I can't thank them enough for all that they have done over many years.

Acknowledging the challenges in appointing Chairs and Vice-Chairs of study groups for 2024 -2027, ITU Member States rose to the occasion. Through extensive consultations, an agreement was reached, considering the principle of equitable geographical distribution and ensuring highly competent Chairs will lead the ITU-R's work in the next study cycle. Congratulations!

While there are numerous other notable achievements, I will refrain from taking up more time, except to recognize Mrs. Carol Wilson, our highly talented and tremendously patient Chair of the 2023 Radiocommunication Assembly. You have my admiration for all of your hard work. Your skills and experience, drawn from many years chairing SG 3, were crucial to bringing this event to a successful conclusion.

I would also like to thank Sergio and his team, as well as all the BR and ITU staff that worked behind the scenes to ensure the smooth running of this Assembly.

A big thanks to our hosts, the UAE, who provided us with a warm welcome and the excellent facilities they have provided for our work during the past 5 days.

Lastly, I extend my sincere thanks to all of you for your support during this 2023 Radiocommunication Assembly. The spirit of collaboration and compromise, hallmarks of the ITU, was palpable during this RA. I truly hope we continue in the same positive vein at WRC-23.

Thank you very much.