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| **World Radiocommunication Conference (WRC-19)Sharm el-Sheikh, Egypt, 28 October – 22 November 2019** |  |
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| PLENARY MEETING | **Document 575-E** |
|  | **18 December 2019** |
|  | **Original: English/Arabic** |
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| MINUTESOF THEFOURteenTH and LAST plenary meeting |
| Friday, 22 November 2019, at 1630 hours |
| **Chairman:** Mr A. BADAWI (Egypt) |

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|  | Subjects discussed | Documents |
| 1 | Availability of provisional final acts | – |
| 2 | Additional declarations and reservations | 565 |
| 3 | Treatment of editorial corrections to the Radio Regulations | 566 |
| 4 | Signing ceremony | – |
| 5 | Closure of the conference | – |

# 1 Availability of provisional final acts

1.1 The **Director of BR** explained that the provisional final acts had been prepared overnight and made available online that morning. In line with the usual practice, they would be examined carefully by the Bureau, in consultation with committee chairmen as necessary, to ensure accuracy and consistency before being published as the Final Acts of the conference.

# 2 Additional declarations and reservations (Document 565)

2.1 The additional declarations and reservations in Document 565 were **noted**.

# 3 Treatment of editorial corrections to the Radio Regulations (Document 566)

3.1 The **Chairman of Committee 7**, introducing Document 566 and recalling the procedure set out in Document 130 concerning the treatment of editorial corrections to the Radio Regulations, sought the conference’s agreement to authorize the Director of BR to proceed with the inclusion of the corrections outlined in Documents 203 (Committee 4), 340 (Committee 5), and 212 and 336 (Committee 6).

3.2 The **Chairman of Committee 5** said that the corrections covered by Document 456 should be dealt with in the same manner.

3.3 The **delegate of the Islamic Republic of Iran** asked what could be done to minimize the need for such a process in the future.

3.4 The **Chairman of Committee 7** said that every effort was made to avoid errors; however, given the complexities of the work of Committee 7 and WRCs in general, imperfections would always be found. Committees could contribute by striving to submit documents to Committee 7 in good time and after careful review. He expressed sincere appreciation to all those involved in the work of Committee 7, in particular the Secretary to the Committee.

3.5 In reply to a further question from the **delegate of the Islamic Republic of Iran**, the **Director of BR** confirmed that the chairmen of all conference committees, including Committee 7, would be consulted as necessary during the editorial correction process, in accordance with the Bureau’s usual practice.

3.6 The **Chairman** took it that the conference wished to authorize the Director of BR to proceed with the inclusion of the corrections outlined in Documents 203, 212, 336, 340 and 456 in the next edition of the Radio Regulations, in accordance with the procedure described in Document 566.

3.7 It was so **agreed.**

# 4 Signing ceremony

4.1 The **Secretary of the Plenary** explained the procedure for the signing ceremony and called the roll of those delegations whose credentials had been found to be in order.

4.2 Upon completion of the signing procedure, she announced that 144 Member States (list reproduced in Annex A) of the 146 having the right to do so had signed the Final Acts.

**The meeting was suspended at 1735 hours and resumed at 1835 hours.**

# 5 Closure of the conference

5.1 The **Director of BR** delivered the address reproduced in Annex B.

5.2 The **Chairman** delivered the address reproduced in Annex C.

5.3 The **Secretary-General** delivered the address reproduced in Annex D and awarded the Chairman the ITU Silver Medal and certificate.

5.4 The **Minister of Communications and Information Technology of Egypt** delivered the address reproduced in Annex E and presented the Secretary-General with a gift to the Union from the Administration of Egypt.

5.5 The **delegates of** **South Africa**, speaking on behalf of ATU, the **Republic of Korea**, speaking on behalf of APT, the **United States**, the **United Arab Emirates**, speaking on behalf of ASMG and the Arab States, **China**, **Bahrain**, **Belarus**, speaking also on behalf of RCC, **Nigeria**, **Saudi Arabia**, **India**, **Lebanon**, **the Netherlands**, speaking on behalf of CEPT, **Kuwait**, the **United Arab Emirates**, **Egypt** and **Colombia**, speaking also on behalf of CITEL, expressed appreciation to the people, President and Administration of Egypt for their hospitality. The first world radiocommunication conference organized in Africa had yielded positive outcomes that would benefit people around the world and lay the foundations for a successful transition to a digital economy. Despite the sensitivity of some subjects, consensus had been reached in every case. The Chairman was congratulated on his skilful and patient leadership, which had helped to facilitate agreement on a number of particularly challenging issues, and appreciation was expressed to the conference vice-chairmen, the Secretary-General, the Director of BR, the staff of the Bureau and General Secretariat involved in ensuring the smooth functioning conference, the chairmen of committees and their subgroups, the regional groups, and the Radio Regulations Board. Appreciation was also expressed to the delegate of the Islamic Republic of Iran.

5.6 The **Chairman**, thanking all speakers for their kind words, declared the World Radiocommunication Conference 2019 closed.

**The meeting rose at 2020 hours.**

The Secretary-General: The Chairman:
H. ZHAO A. BADAWI

**Annexes**: 5

Original: English

Annex A

List of Member States having signed the Final Acts of the
World Radiocommunication Conference (Sharm el-Sheikh, 2019)

Afghanistan, Albania (Republic of), Algeria (People’s Democratic Republic of), Germany (Federal Republic of), Saudi Arabia (Kingdom of), Argentine Republic, Armenia (Republic of), Australia, Austria, Azerbaijani Republic, Bahamas (Commonwealth of the), Bahrain (Kingdom of), Bangladesh (People’s Republic of), Belarus (Republic of), Belgium, Belize, Benin (Republic of), Bosnia and Herzegovina, Botswana (Republic of), Brazil (Federative Republic of), Brunei Darussalam, Bulgaria (Republic of), Burkina Faso, Burundi (Republic of), Cabo Verde (Republic of), Cambodia (Kingdom of), Cameroon (Republic of), Canada, Chile, China (People’s Republic of), Cyprus (Republic of), Vatican City State, Colombia (Republic of), Comoros (Union of the), Korea (Republic of), Costa Rica, Côte d’Ivoire (Republic of), Croatia (Republic of), Cuba, Denmark, Djibouti (Republic of), Dominican Republic, Egypt (Arab Republic of), United Arab Emirates, Ecuador, Spain, Estonia (Republic of), Eswatini (Kingdom of), United States of America, Russian Federation, Finland, France, Gabonese Republic, Ghana, Greece, Guatemala (Republic of), Guyana, Hungary, India (Republic of), Indonesia (Republic of), Iran (Islamic Republic of), Iraq (Republic of), Ireland, Iceland, Israel (State of), Italy, Jamaica, Japan, Jordan (Hashemite Kingdom of), Kazakhstan (Republic of), Kenya (Republic of), Kuwait (State of), Lao People’s Democratic Republic, Lesotho (Kingdom of), Latvia (Republic of), Lebanon, Liberia (Republic of), Liechtenstein (Principality of), Lithuania (Republic of), Luxembourg, North Macedonia (Republic of), Malaysia, Malawi, Mali (Republic of), Malta, Morocco (Kingdom of), Mauritius (Republic of), Mexico, Moldova (Republic of), Monaco (Principality of), Mongolia, Montenegro, Mozambique (Republic of), Myanmar (Union of), Namibia (Republic of), Niger (Republic of the), Nigeria (Federal Republic of), Norway, New Zealand, Oman (Sultanate of), Uganda (Republic of), Uzbekistan (Republic of), Pakistan (Islamic Republic of), Papua New Guinea, Paraguay (Republic of), Netherlands (Kingdom of the), Peru, Philippines (Republic of the), Poland (Republic of), Portugal, Syrian Arab Republic, Kyrgyz Republic, Democratic People’s Republic of Korea, Slovak Republic, Czech Republic, Romania, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, Rwanda (Republic of), San Marino (Republic of), Samoa (Independent State of), Senegal (Republic of), Serbia (Republic of), Singapore (Republic of), Slovenia (Republic of), Somalia (Federal Republic of), Sudan (Republic of the), South Sudan (Republic of), South Africa (Republic of), Sweden, Switzerland (Confederation of), Suriname (Republic of), Tanzania (United Republic of), Chad (Republic of), Thailand, Timor-Leste (Democratic Republic of), Togolese Republic, Trinidad and Tobago, Tunisia, Turkey, Ukraine, Uruguay (Eastern Republic of), Viet Nam (Socialist Republic of), Zambia (Republic of), Zimbabwe (Republic of).

Original: English

Annex B

Closing address by the Director of the Radiocommunication Bureau

Mr Minister,
Mr Governor of South Sinai,
Executive President of NTRA,
Secretary-General,
Mr Chairman,
Distinguished delegates,
Dear colleagues and friends,

It is my pleasure to address you at the end of this World Radiocommunication Conference 2019.

This was a memorable conference. It was the largest conference ever, with over 3 400 participants. It was held outside Geneva – which represents a major endeavour for the ITU. It allowed us to learn a bit more about the Egyptian culture and experience their warm hospitality.

Moreover, this conference will change the lives of billions of people around the world by promoting economic growth and development globally. It will make the digital society more accessible and affordable to all. It will make this world a safer place and allow people and industries that serve them to utilize the advances of radiocommunication technology. This conference will also have an economic impact in a sector worth trillions of dollars.

I assure you that our long hours of discussion and negotiations were not in vain. We enabled the introduction of new technologies while protecting existing services. We found agreement on some very difficult issues; and most importantly we maintained the culture of our Union that allows us to take into account our differing national perspectives and still make treaty decisions and accept international obligations by consensus for the benefit of the global community.

History will record that the World Radiocommunication Conference 2019 made vital decisions and that it was a huge success! It proved to all of us that nothing is impossible in the land of the Pharaohs!

I mentioned to you, mainly when discussion got difficult, that we should keep in mind that the world was watching us. Indeed, the world has been awaiting the outcomes of this event and today I am happy to report back some of the key achievements of this conference.

• WRC-19 opened up new orbital slots for broadcasting satellites and provided developing countries with the opportunity to regain access to spectrum orbit resources thanks to a priority mechanism especially set for them.

• WRC-19 defined a stable regulatory framework for non-GSO satellite systems based on a milestone process enabling mega constellations to rapidly come to fruition. Such a balance will ensure that more affordable means of connectivity will now be offered to the citizens of all countries.

• The need for connectivity everywhere, at all times, has also led to the decision made on earth stations in motion of tremendous importance to connect people while in planes, ships, and trains.

• WRC-19 expanded the capacity and ensured the provision of a truly global maritime distress and safety system.

• The conference identified globally harmonized millimetre wave bands for IMT for the future development of 5G while taking measures to protect vital resources used for scientific services, such as earth exploration satellite services, particularly passive bands used for meteorological measurements that enable weather forecasting and prediction.

• IMT-2020, commonly referred to as 5G, will unlock applications and enable high-speed connection of people and things to the Internet, responding to the ever increasing demand for mobile broadband in our digital economies.

• The conference has also considered the expansion of provision of broadband access to rural and remote areas by identifying frequency bands for high altitude platform systems (HAPS).

• WRC-19 approved a Recommendation on Intelligent Transport Systems (ITS) towards connecting vehicles, improving traffic management and assisting safe driving.

• WRC-19 took measures to ensure the continuous assistance and support for the timely implementation of new technologies, including 4G and 5G networks and services, in Palestine.

• The conference declared the commitment of the Sector to gender equality and gender balance. Member States and Sector Members declared they will urgently undertake active measures towards increasing the percentage of woman engineers in the Radio Sector.

While I could mention several other achievements, allow me just to congratulate you on your success!

The decisions you made will be captured in the WRC-19 final acts, followed by the updated ITU Radio Regulations, that will be published in the course of 2020.

I assure you the Radiocommunication Bureau will continue to provide assistance to all administrations in implementing these revised provisions.

Looking into the next cycle of 2020-2023, we note the extensive number of proposals included in the agenda of WRC-23. This new agenda will keep the ITU and the Radio Regulations up to date with the latest technological advancements in the field of ICTs. I am looking forward to the next study cycle – it seems very promising!

Finally I could not end my speech without saying thanks to the many people involved in making this conference a success.

I thank the conference vice-chairs, the committee chairs and vice-chairs, the working groups, sub-working groups and ad hoc group chairs, the RRB members, and the heads of the regional groups for the key role they played in this conference.

I thank my deputy and all the ITU staff, those here as well as those in Geneva, from all three Sectors and the General Secretariat for their dedication and hard work to ensure the conference ran smoothly.

I thank the Egyptian Administration for putting in place a conducive environment and ensuring our safety throughout this event. I thank the local staff that worked so hard in the background.

And although it’s always delicate to single out individuals, there are four people I need to explicitly acknowledge from the host country team:

• Dr Elsayed Azzouz, who was from the very beginning leading the process of preparation of the conference and worked tirelessly to ensure everything was in place according to ITU requirements.

• Ahmed Raghy, our focal point from the Egyptian side, who put up with all the requests of the BR and the delegations. And he did that always with a smile.

• Hoda El Deeb, who prepared all the adornment of this venue and made sure we worked in a pleasant setting and felt always at home.

• And of course our Chairman, Mr Amr Badawi, who accepted to take on this responsibility, instead of enjoying his retirement. I am not sure he was fully aware of what he was putting himself into! Nevertheless, he has blessed us with his calm and efficient leadership when guiding the proceedings of this conference. Thank you, Mr Chairman!

Finally excellencies, distinguished delegates, ladies and gentlemen, I thank you all for investing yourselves and providing your support to help bring the 2019 World Radiocommunication Conference to a successful conclusion.

We leave Egypt with a feeling of mission accomplished! But before leaving some of you suggested we change the pfd mask for a snorkelling mask and explore the beauties of the sea in Sharm el-Sheikh! My only advice to you is: do not cause any harmful interference to the marine life! It is supposed to be one of the most beautiful ones in the world!

I wish you a safe trip back home.

Original: Arabic/English

Annex C

Closing address by the Chairman

Dr Amr Talaat, Minister of Communications and Information Technology,
His Excellency Secretary-General of the International Telecommunication Union (ITU), Mr Houlin Zhao,
His Excellency Deputy Secretary-General, Mr Malcolm Johnson,
Mr Mario Maniewicz, Director of the Radiocommunication Bureau (BR),
Heads and members of delegations,
Ladies and gentlemen,

I am honoured to address you today at the conclusion of the 2019 World Radiocommunication Conference and welcome you to this closing session. After almost one month of hard work and deliberations, it is wonderful that we should be ending this journey, begun together on 28 October 2019, with unparalleled success.

During this month of work, we succeeded in drafting 52 new resolutions and 82 amendments to previous resolutions, and we suppressed 28 resolutions.

A key outcome of the conference is that it identified additional frequencies for International Mobile Telecommunications, which include the fifth-generation (5G) mobile network technology. This promises to enhance the infrastructure providing high-speed networks for users and transferring information among millions of them and from Internet of Things devices. It additionally enables numerous services for industries so as to expand terrestrial telecommunication services in the interest of sustainable development.

The conference also addressed fixed and mobile satellite services and earth stations in motion, and reviewed the procedures relating to satellite networks.

The conference considered in addition the frequency spectrum needs for high-altitude platform station (HAPS) technology. One advantage of HAPS technology is that it operates in the stratosphere and can be used to provide fixed broadband connectivity to end users and links connecting stations to mobile networks, consequently increasing the coverage of those networks. We have successfully revised the regulatory framework for non-geostationary satellite systems.

The conference also determined rules on frequency spectrum needs and regulatory provisions for the Global Aeronautical Distress and Safety System and the Global Maritime Distress and Safety System.

The Declaration on Promoting Gender Equality, Equity and Parity in the ITU Radiocommunication Sector (ITU-R) is an extremely important step, especially as ITU-R differs from the other ITU Sectors insofar as it is managed much more by men than by women. We hope to see this Declaration presented in the form of a resolution to the Radiocommunication Assembly in 2023 and are delighted that, by way of this Declaration, ITU has begun working on Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) 5, on gender equality.

The conference also began work towards the achievement of SDG 9, concerning industrialization, innovation and infrastructure, through the rules we defined, which promote the dissemination of new and emerging technology.

It furthermore addressed SDG 13, concerning climate action, with ITU-R working to monitor oceans, assess atmospheric conditions and provide accurate climate forecasts.

The earlier discussions and outcomes of the conference do not relate to ITU-R alone but affect all ITU Sectors, influencing the standards established in the ITU Telecommunication Standardization Sector and leading to capacity-building workshops and projects in the ITU Telecommunication Development Sector. We have therefore managed to achieve a key ITU objective, that of “One ITU”, with all Sectors of the ITU working together to achieve its goals.

Ladies and gentlemen,

To review the Radio Regulations – one of the most important and sensitive international treaties for communication – is not an easy matter. It has required hard work on the part of all delegations participating in the conference.

I therefore wish to thank you all for your constructive contributions and the spirit of cooperation that formed the basis for finding compromise solutions acceptable to all parties.

I have been honoured to chair this important conference and hope that its outcomes are the start for a new and emerging technology in the service of innovation and peace.

Allow me, on behalf of you all, to extend great thanks and appreciation to His Excellency the President of the Arab Republic of Egypt for his invitation to host this conference in Sharm el-Sheikh, Egypt’s city of peace, and for his support of the conference and all its activities. We were honoured by his presence at the opening of this conference, on 28 October 2019. I also extend many thanks and much appreciation to His Excellency the Minister of Communications and Information Technology for having in every way supported this important conference, for having continuously followed its progress and for having placed his confidence in my candidacy for its chairmanship. I extend great thanks and appreciation, too, to Major General Khaled Fouda, Governor of South Sinai, for his enthusiasm in harnessing the Governorate’s resources and apparatus to the full, which played a part in ensuring that the conference was smoothly run in a manner reflective of Egypt’s international status. I also thank Ambassador Alaa Youssef, head of the Permanent Mission of the Arab Republic of Egypt to the United Nations Office at Geneva, for his distinguished efforts and his support for making this conference a success.

Allow me on your behalf to thank the entire personnel of the National Telecom Regulatory Authority (NTRA), headed by Eng. Mustafa Abdul Wahid, for their continuous efforts throughout the period of preparation for the conference and during the conference itself. Special thanks go to Dr Elsayed Azzouz, Chairman of the Higher Committee for Organizing the Conference; Eng. Ahmed Al-Rajhi and his staff at the International Relations Sector; Ms Hoda El-Deeb and her staff at the Public Relations Sector; Mr Amr El-Sayed and his colleagues in the ICT sector and Mr Mohamed Fouad and his security, administrative and transport staff. Thanks are due to all colleagues at the NTRA Frequency Spectrum Sector for the tremendous efforts they undertook during the conference.

In conclusion, I would like to thank all participating delegations for their cooperation in making the conference a success and for the support they provided to me by adhering to the principles we agreed at the start of the conference.

I will now switch to English to speak about something very close to my heart. There is one subject I wanted to talk to you about, and this leads to one of the major achievements we had in this conference. This major agreement is what you all know as agenda item 1.13. The amount of effort and work and compromise and help we got from all parties who were a huge distance apart and were able to reach this compromise was a huge success. I thank all of the people who helped in that. And it would be great to say that everybody was involved in reaching this compromise, but I say that this compromise is the beginning of a lot of work to make sure that by using this new spectrum we can have better knowledge of the effect of that spectrum on other services around. In many cases, when we studied this issue, it was obvious that we needed a lot more studies – field studies – and we had a solution that will give us eight years to study those issues and make sure that we have a safe world.

I would like to thank all of the people in ITU who helped us in running a very smooth conference, and I would like to thank Mr Houlin Zhao for being the Secretary‑General of this conference and providing guidance and providing help in many issues, especially the Palestine issue. I would like to thank Mr Mario Maniewicz who provided me with a lot of help and a lot of guidance. I would like to thank Ms Joanne Wilson who was the Secretary of the Conference for her continuous support for providing a very, very smooth process for me to be able to run this conference.

In addition to that, I have got to know the vice-chairmen of the conference who were there whenever I needed them, also the heads of the regional groups who were there day and night, and whenever we needed to advance an issue, they were there to help, and were successful in getting us to this stage. And last but not least, I have two persons that I would like to thank for their great role in this conference. The first one is engineer Tariq Al-Awadhi, who is the head of his group, for the support he gave me by convening the regional groups and for advancing most of the issues that had prominence.

I should also like to thank my technical advisor, my personal assistants who managed my schedule over this period, and the translation and interpretation team who helped all of us to work in proximity.

Last but not least, I would like to thank an expert in the field that I consider now as my brother, Mr Arasteh. He has contributed greatly to the success of this conference. His hard work, his diligence, I do not know how he has all of this energy at his age, and he has been there in every important meeting helping to guide us through this conference. Thank you Mr Arasteh for what you have done for this conference.

I will switch back to Arabic now.

Members of the participating delegations, I hope that I have managed to fulfil all your requirements and meet your best expectations; forgive me if I have unintentionally fallen short in any way.

Lastly, I wish a safe journey to those of you returning to your home countries after the close of this conference, with most of your requirements accomplished. I look forward to seeing you soon in the best of health and spirits at forthcoming conferences. To those who will be continuing with us at the Conference Preparatory Meeting, I wish you success and a safe return thereafter to your countries.

May peace and the mercy and blessings of God be upon you.

Original: English

Annex D

Closing address by the Secretary-General

Mr Chairman,
Excellencies, ministers, ambassadors,
Mr Mario Maniewicz, Director, BR
Distinguished delegates
Ladies and gentlemen,
Dear colleagues,

I am very pleased and happy to address you at this closing moment of WRC-19. You have just completed a most intense four-week conference and you have achieved excellent results that you can all be proud of. I will not repeat what the Director of the Radiocommunication Bureau has said about the important outputs and the many decisions that were agreed. I am confident that the outcome of this conference will have a profound and important impact on the business world for decades to come, providing a major contribution to making the world a better – and safer – place for all.

Dear colleagues,

Four weeks have passed since His Excellency President El-Sisi and his Prime Minister joined us for the Opening Ceremony! President Sisi had invited us to come to Egypt three years earlier. He spent these years preparing for our conference and came in person to express his personal wishes for our success. During the Opening Ceremony, the UN Secretary-General Mr Antonio Guterres, delivered his video message to congratulate our conference. Later that day, I was very honoured to receive a letter from President Trump of the United States expressing his personal support for WRC-19 and wishing us all success. World leaders have widely recognized the important role of ITU and this historic international treaty – the Radio Regulations – which is now 113 years old. I am very pleased with this recognition and I thank them all for their support. WRC-19 has demonstrated that ITU deserves this appreciation.

Dear colleagues,

I am happy with the output but also with the family spirit that has prevailed over the entire conference and throughout the four-year preparation period by ITU-R members, including the important and effective coordination role played by the six regional groups. The family spirit has helped us succeed over this long period of time.

We had moments of disagreement. We had some evening sessions and weekend sessions. Many were exhausted, and some poor colleagues even collapsed. However, I am pleased to note that you all look healthy and happy here. Let me say that ITU’s family is a good family and you are all good members! I appreciate you all! Let us continue our journey of innovations. Now let us work together to implement the results of WRC-19!

As you have noted, I have engaged with the development of revised Resolution 12. I highly appreciate all engaged with the work. I would continue to work with all parties to implement Resolution 12, as I will do for all outputs of WRC-2019.

Ladies and gentlemen,

At this happy moment, I would like to express my personal appreciation and thanks to the host and the individuals who have played key roles in the management of the conference.

I thank the Administration of Egypt for hosting us and for providing us with excellent facilities and security measures for all our needs and requirements. Our Egyptian brothers and sisters have hosted all of us with the highest level of Egyptian generosity and hospitality that warms our hearts. The host team coordinated by His Excellency Minister Amr Talaat, with the full engagements of the NTRA team, has worked over three years to prepare for WRC-19. We thank them all! Please give them a big applause!

I thank Mr Badawi from Egypt for his outstanding work as Chairman of WRC-19. He has shown extraordinary leadership and we are all grateful for his tireless dedication to the task. His deep knowledge of radio technology, skilled management, remarkable patience and wonderful personality have contributed to bringing this event to such a successful conclusion.

I extend my gratitude to the six vice-chairs of the conference for their excellent work, and to the committee chairs, vice-chairs, chairs of sub-committees, working groups and ad hoc groups who have done a tremendous job. Congratulations and appreciations!

I would also like to convey my thanks to all the members of the Radio Regulations Board who have done – and will continue to do – such important work for ITU.

Let me also express my congratulations and appreciation to Mr Mario Maniewicz, Director of the Radiocommunication Bureau, and to Ms Joanne Wilson, Secretary of the Plenary, and all staff of the Radiocommunication Bureau and the General Secretariat, engaged with WRC-19, including the interpreters, for their professional contributions and enthusiastic dedication to the work of WRC‑2019. I thank them all!

I also thank the security staff, technicians, volunteers and others who have served the conference in the past four weeks.

WRC-19 will stay in ITU history with many wonderful memories! WRC-19 will be associated with Sharm el-Sheikh forever. I hope all delegates will keep this good memory and wish you all success in the future!

I wish you a safe return home and a Happy New Year 2020!

I now wish to present a certificate of merit and a medal to the WRC-19 Chairman, Mr Badawi.

Original: Arabic

Annex E

Closing address by Mr Amr Talaat, Minister of Communications and Information Technology, Egypt

In the name of God, the Merciful, the Compassionate,
My brother and friend, Mr Houlin Zhao, Secretary-General of the International Telecommunication Union (ITU),
My brother and friend, Mr Mario Maniewicz, Director of the Radiocommunication Bureau (BR),
Your Excellencies Ministers,
Heads of delegations,
Dear participants,

At the close of the World Radiocommunication Conference, let me say that I sincerely appreciate your active participation in this important international forum, which has resulted in the international treaty – the Radio Regulations, Sharm el-Sheikh, 2019.

From the city of peace, which has hosted this conference of ours for five weeks, I should like to express deep appreciation and gratitude to His Excellency President Abdelfattah Al-Sisi for his patronage of the conference and for his presence at its opening ceremony. I am pleased to convey his congratulations to you all on the conference’s tremendous and unqualified success.

The conference discussions have yielded many positive outcomes for the future of mobile telecommunications, including a set of important bands vital to the fifth-generation (5G) mobile network technology going forward.

The 5G technology can potentially act as the connective tissue of tomorrow’s digital telecommunication. It can also play a major role in supporting governments and policy-makers in the transformation of cities into smart cities so that citizens and communities can realize and share in the socio-economic benefits through an advanced and data-intensive digital economy. As with other new technologies, it has the potential to accelerate progress towards the attainment of the Sustainable Development Goals and Agenda by facilitating action on their distinct and varied objectives.

In its discussions, the conference also laid emphasis on the protection of neighbouring services, such as global meteorological services. It furthermore adopted resolutions for improving traffic management and flow, public transportation systems, road and rail safety, and the control of rail traffic and other forms of transportation aiming to utilize information and communication technology in order to make the cities of the world safer and smarter.

Ladies and gentlemen,

I am delighted by the adoption of the Declaration on Promoting Gender Equality, Equity and Parity in the ITU Radiocommunication Sector, a matter to which Egypt attaches great importance and one on which it has come far.

With regard to satellites, the conference adopted a resolution on the establishment of a regulatory framework for the operation of earth stations in motion, which address the complex challenge of how to provide reliable and high-bandwidth Internet services to moving targets. They provide broadband connections, including Internet connectivity, on platforms in motion.

The regulatory framework for the non-geostationary satellite service has also been established, with the world now set to provide high-speed Internet service coverage in remote areas and areas unserved by terrestrial networks. In addition, new fixed-satellite service frequency bands have been allocated and new orbital locations supplied to provide satellite coverage, especially for developing countries.

I am also pleased that the conference has succeeded in determining rules on spectrum needs and regulatory provisions for the introduction and use of the Global Aeronautical Distress and Safety System. This will have a great impact in the development of the aviation industry through the provision of aeronautical navigation aid systems to ensure a high level of safety and security.

Dear participants,

In this context, it is my pleasure to announce that the first Egyptian communications satellite, Tiba‑1, will be launched in a few hours’ time this evening to serve government institutions and the private sector. This will help to drive support for the State’s comprehensive development efforts through the provision of a communications and broadband Internet infrastructure for remote and isolated areas so as to promote development projects in those areas and additionally bridge the urban-rural digital divide.

It will also provide coverage for countries in North Africa and the Nile Basin, which is among our priorities in view of our 2019 Presidency of the African Union and our hosting of the African Space Agency.

In conclusion, I wish to commend you all on the success of the 2019 World Radiocommunication Conference, on the collegial spirit you demonstrated throughout the discussions and deliberations, and on the compromise initiatives put forward for reconciling the different views.

I am extremely grateful to ITU for trusting Egypt to host its biggest international gathering, with thanks in particular to my friends Mr Houlin Zhao, Secretary-General of ITU, and Mr Mario Maniewicz, Director of BR. I congratulate them both on the outstanding success of this year’s conference. I thank my great brother, Dr Amr Badawi, for his excellent management of the work of the conference and for the achievement of fruitful outcomes agreed by all Member States.

I also wish to express appreciation for the efforts of my brother and friend, the Governor of South Sinai, and of the executive leaderships in the Governorate, in making all the arrangements for hosting this huge global event and ensuring that it ran smoothly.

Last but not least, I should like to thank each and every one of my colleagues in the National Telecom Regulatory Authority for their superb preparation, organization and professionalism. I also wish to thank all local and international members of the press and media for their first-rate coverage of this important international gathering. I look forward to seeing the recommendations and outcomes of the conference translated into positive, tangible and practical results that will help to further the evolution of the telecommunication industry and the adaptation of its technologies so as to achieve the development desired in all our countries.

May peace and the mercy and blessings of God be upon you.

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