

**DYNAMIC SPECTRUM ALLIANCE CONFERENCE - OPENING SESSION
BANGKOK, THAILAND, 18 NOVEMBER 2013**

Ladies and Gentlemen,

It is a privilege to address you, on behalf of the ITU Secretary General, Dr Hamadoun Touré, for this opening session of the first annual conference of the Dynamic Spectrum Alliance (DSA).

The mission of the ITU is to provide an enabling environment for telecommunication networks, and in particular for radiocommunications, which can be expected to become the preferred means of providing broadband access throughout the world.

Thanks to harmonized spectrum and global standards, mobile telephony has now reached 7 billion subscriptions, with penetration rates approaching or surpassing 100% in many developing countries. Thanks to harmonised spectrum and global standards, broadband mobile has already passed the 2 billion subscribers mark.

Until recently, broadband mobile development in scarcely populated areas had been slowed by the relatively shorter range provided by the 2 GHz spectrum. As a result of ITU decisions at World Radiocommunication Conferences (WRCs) in 2007 and 2012, which allocated the digital dividend arising from the transition from analog to digital television broadcasting, the lower frequency bands, at 700 MHz and 800 MHz, are now becoming available for the economically efficient deployment of broadband throughout the world.

In two ministerial summits held in 2011 and 2012, the African countries have already agreed to make this happen and adopted in July 2013, a regional frequency plan confining digital television below 694 MHz, leaving 168 MHz to the mobile service. Similar efforts are undertaken in other parts of the world.

In parallel, global harmonisation of the use of the 700 and 800 MHz bands by the mobile service is progressing well, by the adoption, in Latin America, Asia and Europe, of frequency arrangements which can be used concurrently for both bands in the same terminals.

Political will and economies of scale are therefore setting in place the conditions for the rapid, ubiquitous and affordable development of broadband access through 3G/4G networks in developing and developed countries throughout the world, to a large extent through the extensive use of the UHF band.

As we know, WiFi systems at 2.4 GHz have also developed in recent years as a natural complement of mobile cellular networks. The ITU World Radiocommunication Conference of 2003 provided a several-fold increase in the spectrum made available for these systems by opening 455 MHz of bandwidth in the 5 GHz band (5 150-5 250 MHz, 5 250-5 350 MHz and 5 470-5 725 MHz to

Wireless Access Systems, with part of it on a shared basis with military and meteorological radars, with the mandatory use of dynamic frequency selection. This is the first occurrence of dynamic spectrum access.

In this context, the goal pursued by the creation of the Dynamic Spectrum Alliance to promote the use of spectrum through further sharing arrangements with existing services can certainly be supported by the ITU. The ITU has always supported new technologies, by introducing in the Radio Regulations new provisions which enable their development while protecting other services, hence providing long term assurance for investments in radiocommunication systems.

ITU is also supporting more efficient use of spectrum, which was a key driver in adopting, in 2012, the ITU specifications for IMT-advanced, which will shortly be deployed in several countries with LTE- advanced systems.

The ITU World Radiocommunication Conference of 2012 concluded that the current international regulatory framework can accommodate cognitive radio, hence dynamic spectrum access, without being changed. The development of systems implementing this concept, such as TV white spaces, is therefore essentially in the hands of national regulators in each country.

Obviously, the goal is to provide a regulatory environment under which systems implementing cognitive radio can develop in a sustainable way, in harmony with other systems using the same spectrum.

For this purpose, collaborative discussions on the technical, operational, economical and regulatory aspects of this question are essential if progress is to be made quickly. The ITU Radiocommunication Sector is providing a forum for these discussions between governments, regulators, operators, manufacturers and academia. Several workshops on this issue will also be organised in the coming months to complement these discussions through a wider participation. You are of course most welcome to these events.

I therefore welcome the initiative of the DSA to organise this conference and look forward to the discussions that you will have today, since they will help in achieving a better understanding of what is to be expected from and for cognitive systems such as those using TV white spaces.

I wish you a very successful conference.

François Rancy

Director,
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International Telecommunication Union