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| **Agenda item: PL 3** | **Document C23/31-E** |
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| Report by the Secretary-General | |
| PREPARATIONS FOR THE 2023 RADIOCOMMUNICATION ASSEMBLY (RA-23) AND THE 2023 WORLD RADIOCOMMUNICATION CONFERENCE (WRC-23) | |
| **Purpose**  This document reports on the ongoing preparations for the 2023 radiocommunication assembly (RA-23) and the 2023 world radiocommunication conference (WRC-23).  **Action required by the Council**  The ITU Council is invited **to note** the progress of preparations for RA-23 and WRC-23.  **Relevant link(s) with the Strategic Plan**  Spectrum use for space and terrestrial services; development and application of the ITU Administrative Regulations; allocation and management of resources, convening platforms.  **Financial implications**  None.  \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_  **References**  [Council Resolution 1399](https://www.itu.int/md/S20-CL-C-0069/en) (C20), [Council Decision 623](https://www.itu.int/md/S21-CL-C-0096/en) (C21) | |

**1. Background information**

1.1 The agenda and the dates and place of the 2023 world radiocommunication conference (WRC-23) and the dates and place of the 2023 radiocommunication assembly (RA-23) were established by ITU Council Resolution 1399 (C20) and Council Decision 623 (C21), respectively.

1.2 The following venues and dates have been confirmed:

– WRC-23 will be held in Dubai, United Arab Emirates, from 20 November to 15 December 2023;

– RA-23 will be held in Dubai, United Arab Emirates, from 13 to 17 November 2023.

1.3 Furthermore, the host-country agreement for the holding, organization and funding of these two events and also the subsequent first session of the conference preparatory meeting for WRC-27 (CPM27-1) was signed by the Director General of the Telecommunications and Digital Government Regulatory Authority (TDRA) of the United Arab Emirates and the ITU Secretary‑General in Bucharest on 30 September 2022.

**2. Preparations for RA-23**

2.1 Formal invitations to attend RA-23 were dispatched in [Circular Letter 22/42](https://www.itu.int/md/S22-SG-CIR-0042/en), [DM-22/1013](https://www.itu.int/md/S22-DM-CIR-01013/en), [DM-22/1014](https://www.itu.int/md/S22-DM-CIR-01014/en) and [DM-22/1015](https://www.itu.int/md/S22-DM-CIR-01015/en) of 25 November 2022. Preliminary arrangements were advised to administrations by the Radiocommunication Bureau in its [Administrative Circular CACE/1050](https://www.itu.int/md/R00-CACE-CIR-1050/en) of 10 February 2023. All these circular letters can be found under participation information on the RA-23 website at [https://www.itu.int/ra-23/participation/circular-letters/.](https://www.itu.int/ra-23/participation/circular-letters/.%20)

2.2 The proposed organizational arrangements for RA-23 were also included in [Administrative Circular CACE/1050](https://www.itu.int/dms_pub/itu-r/md/00/cace/cir/R00-CACE-CIR-1050!!PDF-E.pdf) and consultations with administrations have taken place concerning the possible chairmen and vice-chairmen for RA-23 and its various committees. Administrations and Radiocommunication Sector Members have been invited to consider candidates for posts of study group chairmen and vice-chairmen that will be considered for election at RA-23 in accordance with Resolution ITU-R 15-6 (Rev. Geneva, 2015) of the Radiocommunication Assembly (see [Administrative Circular CACE/1058](https://www.itu.int/dms_pub/itu-r/md/00/cace/cir/R00-CACE-CIR-1058!!PDF-E.pdf) of 18 April 2023). All necessary administrative and logistical arrangements for RA-23 are under way in conjunction with other ITU departments and units concerned.

**3. Preparations for WRC-23**

3.1 Formal invitations to attend WRC-23 were dispatched in [Circular Letter 22/40](https://www.itu.int/md/S22-SG-CIR-0040/en), [Circular Letter 22/41](https://www.itu.int/md/S22-SG-CIR-0041/en) and [DM-22/1012](https://www.itu.int/md/S22-DM-CIR-01012/en) of 25 November 2022. Preliminary arrangements were provided to administrations by the Radiocommunication Bureau in its [Administrative Circular CA/265](https://www.itu.int/dms_pub/itu-r/md/00/ca/cir/R00-CA-CIR-0265!!PDF-E.pdf) of 7 March 2023**.** All these circular letters can be found under participation information on the WRC-23 website at <https://www.itu.int/wrc-23/participation/circular-letters/>.

3.2 Consultations concerning the possible structure of WRC-23 and suggested chairmen and vice-chairmen for the conference and its proposed committees and working groups are being carried out through an informal group chaired by Mr K. Arasteh that meets regularly to this effect, as well as through individual consultations with administrations of Member States. These consultations are progressing well.

**4. ITU-R preparatory studies for RA-23 and WRC-23**

4.1 The ITU-R working parties and Task Group 6/1 developed the possible draft solutions to satisfy the WRC-23 agenda items and topics based on the preparatory studies assigned to them by the first session of the conference preparatory meeting for WRC-23 (CPM23-1), according to the pre-established schedule. These were included in the draft CPM report, which was made available online in the six official languages of the Union prior to the deadline defined in Resolution ITU-R 2-8 (Rev. Sharm el-Sheikh, 2019) of the Radiocommunication Assembly, for consideration at CPM23-2. In some cases, technical studies are continuing in the relevant ITU-R working parties to finalize supporting ITU-R Recommendations/Reports. That work is expected to be completed prior to or at RA-23, in time for WRC-23.

4.2 The draft CPM report to WRC-23 and contributions from the membership, together with information from the Radiocommunication Bureau, were considered at CPM23-2, which was held in Geneva from 27 March to 6 April 2023, with remote participation facilities. As a result of the extensive, efficient and successful work carried out by 1 950 participants (1 297 in person and the others virtually), representing 127 Member States, 117 Radiocommunication Sector Members and three United Nations agencies, the final CPM report to WRC-23 was approved and made available on the CPM webpage in the six official languages of the Union prior to the deadline defined in Resolution ITU-R 2-8 (Rev. Sharm el-Sheikh, 2019). This report was also submitted to WRC-23 (see WRC-23 Document 3).

**5. Regional preparations**

Taking into account Resolution 80 (Rev. Marrakesh, 2002) of the Plenipotentiary Conference, extensive preparations for RA-23 and WRC-23 are ongoing, in particular through the regional telecommunication organizations, including APT, ASMG, ATU, CEPT, CITEL and RCC. ITU has been assisting with these preparations wherever possible, noting, in particular, Resolution 72 (Rev.WRC-19) of the World Radiocommunication Conference. In this regard, two ITU interregional workshops on WRC-23 preparations were held from 13 to 15 December 2021, virtually, and in Geneva from 29 November to 1 December 2022, with remote participation facilities. A third ITU interregional workshop on WRC-23 preparations is planned to be held from 27 to 29 September 2023 with remote participation facilities, just prior to RA-23 and WRC-23.

**6. Economy measures for documents**

In keeping with the spirit of [Decision 5](https://www.itu.int/en/council/Documents/basic-texts-2023/DEC-005-E.pdf) (Rev. Bucharest, 2022) of the Plenipotentiary Conference (Annex 2), and as done already for RA/WRC-15 and RA/WRC-19, the understanding and assistance of administrations have been sought in having RA/WRC-23 as a paperless conference. These measures are outlined for RA-23 and WRC-23, respectively, in Radiocommunication Bureau Administrative Circulars CACE/1050 and CA/265 (see above).

**7. Conclusion**

The Council is invited to note this summary of the preparations for RA-23 and WRC-23. These preparations are continuing in order to ensure the efficient conduct of these events in Dubai, United Arab Emirates, and to facilitate a successful outcome.

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