

# 3<sup>RD</sup> ITU INTER-REGIONAL WORKSHOP ON WRC-15 PREPARATION

09.30, TUESDAY 1 SEPTEMBER 2015  
ITU ROOM POPOV, GENEVA, SWITZERLAND

## *WELCOME REMARKS*

**HOULIN ZHAO**

**SECRETARY-GENERAL  
OF THE INTERNATIONAL TELECOMMUNICATION UNION**

Excellencies,  
Distinguished Chairmen of the regional groups and organizations,  
Ladies and gentlemen,  
Dear Participants,

- It is my great honour and pleasure to welcome you to this third and last ITU Inter-regional Workshop on WRC-15 Preparation. I'm doing it also on behalf of the Director of the Radiocommunication Bureau, Mr. François Rancy, who unfortunately cannot be with us today. He has requested me to convey to you his warmest regards and best wishes for a successful event.
- The very good feedback and appreciation we received after the first and second Workshops, successfully organized in 2013 and last year, has shown how important all the opportunities are to meet formally and informally, exchange views, provide information and explanations for a better understanding of the difficult issues on the World Radiocommunication Conference 2015 agenda.
- This 3rd Workshop is one of those last opportunities and I am pleased to see all of you here present today and ready to further contribute to the preparatory process towards RA-15 and WRC-15.
- After the successful achievement of the Second session of CPM-15 in March/April this year, with the approval and publication on due time of the CPM Report in the six Official languages of the union, we can now focus more directly on the final stage of the WRC-15 Preparation.

- In so doing, we can note with satisfaction the consensus reached already at the CPM on a single possible method to address a number of issues on the WRC-15 Agenda dealing such as for:
  - the feeder-links to Non-GSO systems in the MSS in the 5 GHz band;
  - the allocation of new spectrum for the implementation of WAIC;
  - the more efficient usage of existing frequencies for on-board communications and critical functions of ships in restricted waters.
- In addition, the progress made by the ITU-R studies on Global flight tracking for civil aviation has been reported by the BR Director to WRC-15, in response to PP-14 Resolution 185.  
I hope that the spirit of high reactivity shown by the highest organ in the ITU to this very important issue will also prevail at WRC-15 when it will consider the possible options envisaged at this stage.
- I should also thank the Director of the BR for the preparation of his Report to WRC-15, to be considered and approved in accordance with Article 7 of the Convention.  
This Report contains valuable information, in particular on the difficulties or inconsistencies encountered in the application of the Radio Regulations.

Dear Colleagues,

- We have now reached an important landmark towards the WRC-15 Preparation with the completion of the CPM Report and final steps of the ITU-R studies for WRC-15.
- I should here acknowledge all the efforts put into this process by you, our members, under the very high level and competent leadership of the Chairmen of all responsible groups, Study Groups, Special Committee and the CPM.
- The importance and volume of the work carried out can be easily measured by the increase of more than 20% of the number of pages in the CPM Report, compared to WRC-12, as well as by the thousands of pages approved and published in the many new or revised ITU-R Recommendations and Reports.
- Without all those efforts during the last 3.5 years, we would have not been able to carry out successfully the ITU-R preparatory studies for WRC-15 and provide the ITU Member States with the necessary information to well address the complex topics on the WRC-15 Agenda and prepare their proposals and common proposals to the Conference.

- On our side and to facilitate the review, analysis and study of the thousands proposals expected prior to and during WRC-15, the Secretariat has developed and made available new tools on the web. We encourage to continue the use of these tools with in particular the Conference Proposal Interface for the preparation and submission of the proposals.

Dear Friends,

- We are here today to continue the implementation of Resolution 72 (Rev.WRC-07) and the trend toward increasing the number of common and coordinated proposals, which should guarantee the same level of achievement at WRC-15 than at WRC-12. This process, which highlights the great spirit of international cooperation that marks the ITU tradition of consensus building, has proved to be more and more successful within and between the various regional groups for many WRCs now. So let's continue this good practice.
- I am pleased to see that the six main regional groups (APT, ASMG, ATU, CEPT, CITELE, RCC) and several Member States are well represented today at this Workshop and this again shows the increasing importance the ITU membership gives to the role of the WRC process to improve the regulatory procedures, and to provide frequency and orbit resources for new technologies, and the technical framework for the operation of services.
- I am confident that this high level participation at our Workshop during the coming three days will enable a successful exchange of information for the benefit of all of us. This should facilitate the clear understanding of the Methods in the CPM Report and of the advanced common positions and proposals to WRC-15, as well as of the BR Director's Reports.
- Be sure that the staff of the Bureau present at this Workshop will also be pleased to provide any information you might need about the different topics on the WRC-15 Agenda.

Ladies and gentlemen,

- I am pleased to remind also that the informal group of representatives of the regional groups for the preparation of the WRC-15 and RA-15 that met alongside the CPM, agreed to a draft structure for WRC-15 and on supporting the candidacy of Mr. Festus Daudu from Nigeria as WRC-15 Chairman, and that of Mr. Akira Hashimoto from Japan as RA-15 Chairman.

This will greatly assist in the efficient preparation of these two major events.

- I will close my remarks by wishing you “bon courage”, with an assurance that all ITU staff will assist you in every way possible during this meeting. May I offer my very best wishes for an enjoyable stay in Geneva and a successful meeting.

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