



**ITUPP**

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## **ITU Plenipotentiary Conference 2022**

### **Elections**

Bucharest, Romania

### **Acceptance speech**

*30 September 2022*

**Mario Maniewicz**

**Director of the Radiocommunication Bureau**

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Mr Chairman,

Distinguished authorities,

Esteemed delegates,

Dear friends,

I should like to start by expressing my deepest gratitude to ITU Member States for the confidence that they have placed in me to continue serving as Director of the Radiocommunication Bureau for the coming four years.

At the Plenipotentiary Conference (Dubai, 2018), you honoured me by affording me the opportunity to lead the Radiocommunication Bureau (BR). The four years that followed posed an unexpected challenge, due to the advent of the global COVID-19 pandemic.

It gives me great satisfaction to note that despite these difficulties, we managed, through the combined efforts of the delegates and the BR team, to adapt our working methods in order to maintain the Sector's activities, as well as the products and services traditionally provided by the Bureau.

Today, I am proud that Member States have renewed their support for me to continue serving as Director of BR for a further cycle.

This expression of confidence redoubles my commitment to countries to ensure that the Radiocommunication Sector of ITU remains at the level required by technological developments and maintains the dynamism demanded by both government and industry stakeholders.

My first term ends after having had the pleasure of working with the Secretary-General, Houlin Zhao, Deputy Secretary-General, Malcolm Johnson and the Directors of TSB and BDT, Chaesub Lee and Doreen Bogdan-Martin, respectively.

During my second term, it will give me great pleasure to form part of the new management team, led by Doreen, with whom I share fully the vision of the role and objectives that our organization must pursue. I am also glad that Thomas Lamanauskas is part of the new team.

My thanks also go to the BR management team, as well as to the rest of the BR staff, for their hard and tireless work and their commitment to rendering high-quality and efficient service to Member States. It is an additional honour for me to continue to lead the excellent technical team and staff of the Bureau.

Dear friends,

I should like to express my gratitude to the authorities in my country for having supported my candidature without hesitation. In particular, I give special thanks to the Minister of Industry, Energy and Mining, Omar Paganini, the National Director for Telecommunications, Guzmán Acosta y Lara, and to the President of the regulatory authority for communications in Uruguay, Mercedes Aramendía, as well as to the other members of the Uruguayan delegation present today, for their unconditional support.

Last but not least, I should like to thank my family, in particular my wife Patricia, who is with me here in Bucharest today, as well as my children, Alejandro and Sabrina, for all the support that they have given me during my long career at ITU and, in particular, for the great patience and understanding that they have shown towards my frequent absences.

Mr Chairman,

The coming four years will mark the culmination of my professional life. I am very pleased that this final stage of my career is starting here, in this beautiful city of Bucharest.

Thank you very much.