



ITU International Satellite Symposium 2017
Satellite Regulation, Market and Technology trends, and
industry opportunities
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Welcome Remarks

By

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Your Excellency Mr. Héctor Huici, Secretary of Communications and Information Technologies at The Ministry of Communications, Argentina, Distinguished participants, colleagues and friends, Ladies and gentlemen,

Good morning,

- It is a great pleasure to be here with you at the ITU International Satellite Symposium in Bariloche, and to address you on behalf of the ITU Secretary General, Houlin Zao and the Radiocommunication Bureau Director, Mr. François Rancy.
- Let me first express my profound gratitude to the Ministry of Communications of Argentina for kindly hosting and co-organising this event with the ITU.
- My thanks are going also to the firm, continuing and unfailing support of our partners and sponsors, INVAP, ARSAT, CEATSA, SES, O3B, Inmarsat and ESOA.
- I am particularly pleased to be able to address you today, as satellite technologies and fair access to the orbit and spectrum resources are very close to my heart – and they have occupied a very important part of my professional life, both in the public and private sectors.

Dear friends,

Satellite communications play an increasingly important role in our daily life by providing ubiquitous coverage for:

- Television program distribution and broadcasting,
- Mobile network backhaul infrastructure,
- Global positioning and navigation,
- Meteorological and Earth resource monitoring,
- Internet access and telecommunications in remote areas or in emergency situations, and
- Key safety communications.

To provide these essential services, satellite systems of all kinds rely on one single and finite resource which is common to all countries in the world: the orbit/spectrum resource.

At the international level, this resource is managed by the ITU, which is unique among UN-specialized agencies in having a mix of public and private sector members. In addition to our 193 Member States we also have around 700 members comprising satellite operators and manufacturers, software developers, service providers, R&D organizations and local, regional and international ICT bodies. I believe this is the great strength of ITU.

- For more than 150 years, we have worked alongside the industry we serve, building global consensus, reconciling competing interests, and forging the new regulations and technical standards that serve as the platform for the development of what has become the world's most dynamic business sector.
- Through all this, we aim to bring affordable, equitable communications services to all the world's people, and we strive to foster peaceful cooperation among nations through the equitable sharing of global resources – for the betterment of humanity as a whole.

Dear friends,

- Regarding space activities, our work focuses on ensuring the essential services delivered over satellite systems can function as they should – without risk of 'harmful interference'.

- Harmful interference is a potential problem for any kind of radiocommunication service; one very important reason is that some satellite-borne services – such as air navigation for aircraft – have a crucial safety element, meaning that interference becomes a very serious matter indeed.

Dear friends,

- ITU's coordination role for new satellite deployments involves complex technical calculations and liaison with national administrations whose satellite systems and terrestrial stations may be impacted by transmissions from a new satellite.
- With the growing success of satellite communications, it is becoming increasingly difficult to have access to additional orbit/spectrum resources and to fully coordinate them in accordance with the provisions of the Radio Regulations.
- Efficient use of spectrum and orbital resources is therefore one of the most crucial challenges facing the international community today in its efforts to promote ICT development and to achieve the connectivity access targets set by the World Summit on the Information Society.
- This is not only an issue for the international community but also for each individual country to ensure that their national policy and regulations would not hamper but foster ICT development including satellite one.
- Undoubtedly the biggest challenge in front of us for the satellite industry and national policy makers is how to reduce the apparent congestion of this common resource?
- Several possibilities can be envisaged but I'll let you know more about it by listening to the presentations to be made during these two days.
- You will see that some of these possibilities may entail the risk of restricting the operational flexibility of satellite operators or increasing costs for end users. But,
- The impact on the equitable access to these resources by all countries of the world also needs to be assessed, recognizing that the current situation also threatens this equitable access by favouring incumbent systems and monopolisation of resources.
- Access to satellite services, as life is a trade off!

Ladies and gentlemen,

- You will learn more during these two days not only on international satellites regulations including WRC-19 challenges, but also on issues and challenges faced by the satellite industry especially those inhibiting the fast development of market and effective competition, but also issues faced by administrations to foster satellite development in their country. Also you will learn how the satellite future is bright.
- This symposium is for you; do not hesitate to use it as a platform and opportunity for networking among stakeholders in the industry.
- In this regard, outcomes of the Symposium will pave the way to address the issues and properly plan future actions, including plan ITU activities, which will promote and strengthen the industry at all levels i.e. from policy and regulatory level to market, competition, and businesses.
- Let me therefore close my remarks by asking you to think carefully about how we can continue to use and improve satellite technologies and fair access to the orbit and spectrum resources at the international and national level to help connect the unconnected, and make the world a better and a fairer place for all.
- Thank you once again Your Excellency Mr. Héctor Huici for hosting this prestigious event.
- Thank you all for your attention.