

**Inauguration Ceremony
ITU Elected Team**

Geneva, Switzerland

16 January 2019

Inaugural Speech

**Mario Maniewicz
Director, Radiocommunication Bureau**

Excellencies,
Colleagues,
Ladies and Gentlemen,

Good morning to you all. I would also like to add my thanks to all of you for coming to this inauguration ceremony and I wish you and your families an excellent 2019!

It is not only an honour, but also a great pleasure for me to have been elected to serve the ITU Membership as Director of the Radiocommunication Bureau during the coming four years, as part of the senior management team of ITU under the leadership of our Secretary General, Mr. Houlin Zhao. I look forward to a good collaboration among all of us as well as to have the three sectors working together in a cohesive and united manner for the benefit of all members.

I am also thrilled to be leading the excellent team of professionals that the Bureau has to serve the ITU Member States with quality and efficiency.

As you all know, radiocommunication services are key for the development of the telecommunications/ICT ecosystem. Today everything is mobile,

everything is wireless, so nearly every device we employ nowadays is a radiocommunication-enabled device. The ITU Radiocommunication Sector plays a vital role in the evolving telecommunications/ICT ecosystem: managing the radio frequency spectrum and the satellite orbits, as well as adopting universally harmonized regulations and standards, are fundamental in ensuring accessible and affordable telecommunications to all.

I am conscious about the great responsibility that Member States have deposited in me and the confidence that they have shown by electing me for such an important role. I am fully committed to spare no efforts towards delivering on their expectations. The ITU-R in general and the BR in particular have always been known by their efficiency, transparency and fairness and I think we should continue on that road. To these important aspects, I would like to add “inclusiveness”, as we should strive to bring on board the Member States who have not been active in our sector in order for them to participate in our activities and thus benefit from what the Radiocommunication Sector has to offer.

As it was already mentioned, this year will be marked by the 2019 World Radiocommunication Conference, which will be held in Egypt at the end of the year. This treaty making conference will be key in paving the way for the harmonious development of all radiocommunication services in the future, so we count on all of you to make this conference a resounding success. As part of the preparatory process for the conference, we will be holding next month the Second Session of the Conference Preparatory Meeting for WRC-19, which will adopt a report that will serve as the basis for discussion at the WRC itself.

The conference should be the starting point for 5G to be rolled out, for non-geostationary satellites to be more and more present in our lives, for HAPS to be part of the connectivity solutions for rural areas, and so many other services that are counting on what would be decided at the World

Radiocommunication Conference. We look forward to working with all of you, both Member States and ITU staff, in order to make it a success.

I am looking forward to working with you to take the ITU to new heights.

Thank you very much.