

2nd Session of the Conference Preparatory Meeting (CPM23-2)
Geneva, Switzerland

Monday, 27 March 2023
0930 hours, CIG Room “Amphithéâtre” D

Opening Remarks

Mario Maniewicz
Director, Radiocommunication Bureau

Madam Chairperson,
Madam Secretary-General,
Mr Deputy Secretary-General,
Fellow Directors of TSB and BDT,
Distinguished guests,
Ladies and gentlemen,

I am delighted to welcome you all to the second session of the Conference Preparatory Meeting for WRC-23, which we call in short CPM23-2.

Let me congratulate Ms Cindy Cook, the Chairperson of CPM-23, and all the Vice-Chairpersons and CPM Chapter Rapporteurs of this important meeting for the progress achieved so far.

I truly appreciate your efforts to follow closely the ITU-R preparatory studies for WRC-23, and I am confident that your leadership will ensure that this CPM works as seamlessly and efficiently as possible during these two weeks.

Distinguished Members,

CPM23-2 is a critical step in the preparation for WRC-23, which will take place in Dubai, in the United Arab Emirates, from 20 November to 15 December 2023.

The number of attendees present in this Room and those online participating remotely or listening to the webcast, highlight the importance of the matters to

be discussed. In fact, we have more than 1900 announced delegates with more than 1400 of them announced to be present in Geneva, coming from 123 Member States, 120 Sector Members and 4 UN sister agencies.

During the first session of the CPM for WRC-23, held immediately after WRC-19, we identified the studies to be carried out by the ITU-R study groups in preparation for the next WRC. We agreed on a structure for the draft CPM Report to WRC-23, and appointed rapporteurs for the five chapters of the report to assist the chairperson and vice-chairpersons in managing the development of the draft CPM Report.

However, at that time, we could not have envisioned the extent to which COVID-19 would alter our work over the next two years, and the challenges it would impose in the development of the draft CPM text.

Fortunately, with the commitment of all the ITU-R study groups, working parties and task group involved, all the draft CPM texts were completed by the responsible groups before the agreed deadline of 21 October 2022.

The intensive and exhaustive preparatory studies resulted in about 1000 pages of draft CPM texts, depending on the language, which summarize and analyse the results of ITU-R studies, define methods and regulatory and procedural considerations to satisfy each item and topic on the WRC-23 agenda.

I express my deep appreciation for all the successful work accomplished by our membership, under the excellent leadership of the responsible group Chairpersons and their subgroups.

With the additional meetings of the working parties before RA-23, I am very confident that the remaining ITU-R Recommendations and Reports referred to in the CPM Report should be completed and approved in due time prior to WRC-23.

Dear Colleagues,

I would like to take this opportunity to express my gratitude to all of you, for your cooperation in preparing the many contributions to this meeting, which

have increased by about 20 percent compared to CPM19-2, by using the Conference Proposal Interface which was developed for the first time for the second session of the CPM.

Following what is now a standard practice for ITU conferences, the use of this CPI and the associated proposal management web tools are certainly facilitating the preparation and translation of the documents received. These tools should also facilitate the analysis of the 959 proposed modifications to the draft CPM Report and their use during the meeting.

I take this opportunity to inform you that Experts from our Radiocommunication Bureau will provide a series of **information sessions**, during lunch breaks in **CICG, Room 8**, on a set of BR-developed software applications and tools, used for accessing and querying the terrestrial and space services Master International Frequency Register (MIFR) databases, performing technical calculations, as well as browsing the Radio Regulations (RR) and analysing the RR5 Table of Frequency Allocations. More details and the sessions schedule are provided in an Information Document to this meeting.

Distinguished Delegates,

As you all know, CPM23-2 is not where final treaty decisions are made, but its task is to deliver a Report to the 2023 World Radiocommunication Conference setting out the technical, operational, regulatory, and procedural up-to-date information.

The information included in the Report should represent reconciled differences in approaches as contained in the source material, or in the case where the approaches cannot be reconciled, the inclusion of differing views and their justification.

In the past, CPM Reports were used extensively by Member States to prepare their proposals or common proposals to the conferences, and to provide useful information for the deliberations at the conference itself.

I rely on the delegates present here in this room or remotely to contribute to the success of this preparatory meeting by using their expertise and knowledge to understand the interests and constraints of the other parties and to offer solutions towards achieving consensus at WRC-23.

Furthermore, after this meeting, I encourage Member States and partners to help disseminate the results of this CPM23-2 at the national and regional levels and to continue the consultations and discussion prior to WRC-23.

Ladies and gentlemen,

There are many important topics to be discussed during this meeting. These issues include the identification of frequency bands for International Mobile Telecommunications (IMT), the use of high-altitude platform stations as IMT base stations (HIBS), the regulatory provisions to facilitate radiocommunications for sub-orbital vehicles, the allocation of frequency bands for the aeronautical mobile service, for space research service and Earth exploration-satellite service, the modernization of the Global Maritime Distress and Safety System (GMDSS), and the use of frequency bands by geostationary and non-geostationary fixed-satellite service earth stations in motion.

The formal and informal discussions taking place in this CPM23-2 will certainly pave the way to a successful world radiocommunication conference later this year and your work will have a tremendous impact on the future development of radiocommunication technologies, which have become indispensable to our daily lives and to the overarching achievement of the sustainable development goals.

In closing, I would like to assure you that the secretariat is here to assist you in any way possible. ITU staff has been working tirelessly to ensure the success of this event and they remain at your disposal.

I express my best wishes for the success of this second session of CPM-23.

Thank you all for your attention.