

**Joint 51st session of the Board and
26th session of the Operations Committee of the Intersputnik IOSC**

Moscow, Russian Federation

Opening Remarks

6 June 2023 – Pre-recorded video

Mario Maniewicz

Director, Radiocommunication Bureau

Dear Mr. President of the Council,

Dear Mr Chairman of the Operations Committee,

Dear Madam Director General,

Dear participants, Ladies and Gentlemen,

It is a great pleasure for me to address you at the Joint 51st session of the Board and the 26th session of the Operations Committee of the Intersputnik.

Recent years have been marked by significant developments in the space industry. They led to the creation of new generations of satellites, complex constellations, and state-of-the-art space communication and navigation technologies. Satellite links connect people around the world, assist in navigation, provide access to information, knowledge and services, especially for population in remote and underserved areas.

Satellite technologies also assist in achieving UN Sustainable Development Goals and resolving several global problems, ranging from connecting unconnected and bridging the digital divide, to climate change and exploring outer space.

In this respect, I am very glad to recognize a very important and constructive role of your organization – the International Organization of Satellite Communications - Intersputnik – as a part of the satellite community.

Intersputnik brings together 26 member-states. Intersputnik ensures efficient coordination between its members in the areas of design and manufacturing of satellite communications systems, their operation and enhancement. All these is done in active cooperation with numerous stakeholders, including the International Telecommunication Union.

Dear colleagues,

One of the key factors in the success of the satellite industry is the efficient and rational use of the radio frequency spectrum and satellite orbits. To meet growing communication needs, the next World Radiocommunication Conference will consider additional spectrum and regulations for new wireless applications and satellite systems. WRC-23 will take place in Dubai, United Arab Emirates, from 20 November to 15 December 2023.

This conference will establish the international regulatory framework for emerging satellite communication technologies. Some of these technologies respond to a global demand for broadband communications onboard aircraft and ships, as well as reliable command and control radiolinks for unmanned aircraft.

The conference will also consider spectrum needs and regulations to ensure inter-satellite communications, and necessary improvements to the regulatory procedures for non-geostationary-satellite systems.

A report of the Conference Preparatory Meeting on technical, operational, and regulatory issues, has been prepared for consideration by WRC-23 and is available on the ITU website.

Dear participants,

Since the launch of the first satellites, we have witnessed a technological revolution in the satellite industry. Satellite manufacturing has become faster, cheaper, and more accessible for companies. Such low cost of satellites, simple design, and flexible launch options have resulted in an incredible growth of the number of small satellites launched over the past few years.

ITU is now facing an urgent need to study the increasing use of spectrum and associated orbit resources by non-GSO satellites, the long-term sustainability of these resources and their compatible use by GSO satellites and non-GSO constellations.

Another revolution has taken place in the applications and services furnished by satellite technologies, such as providing Internet access, integration with terrestrial mobile applications, and Internet of Things data delivery. Convergence of terrestrial and space communications is becoming a reality. One latest example of such convergence is that the IMT-2020/5G system design supports various access technologies, including satellite ones.

ITU recognizes that sometimes the pace of the technological developments, especially in satellite communications, may be ahead of the international regulatory framework. This raises some concerns by the industry and operators of wireless systems, who need to be confident in the transparency and sustainability of international regulations.

ITU plans to discuss these important issues at WRC-23, as well as at the workshop "ITU in the service of space" on 28 June 2023 in Geneva. This event will assist in better identification of the future needs of the satellite industry and determining possible ways for flexible adaptation of ITU's regulations to the rapidly changing technologies.

It is my pleasure to note, with sincere thanks, that this seminar will be held in the 6 ITU languages, thanks to the financial support of Intersputnik. ITU is also very grateful to Intersputnik for its generous donation for the new ITU headquarter building.

Dear colleagues,

I am looking forward to the constructive contribution of Intersputnik to the preparations for WRC-23 as well as to the discussions during this conference.

I would like to conclude my speech by thanking Intersputnik for the opportunity of addressing you today and wish the Joint 51st session of the Council and the 26th session of its Operational Committee constructive and fruitful discussions.

Thank you very much.