

31st Meeting of the Radiocommunication Advisory Group (RAG)

ITU Headquarters, Geneva, Switzerland

Opening Remarks

25 March 2024

Mario Maniewicz

Director, Radiocommunication Bureau

Madam Secretary-General,
Chair of the Radiocommunication Advisory Group,
Fellow elected officials,
Ladies and Gentlemen,

I am pleased to welcome you all to the 31st Meeting of the Radiocommunication Advisory Group.

This is our first meeting following the 2023 Radiocommunication Assembly and the World Radiocommunication Conference.

At the onset, I would like to congratulate you all on the successful outcome of RA-23 and WRC-23. You ably navigated the complexities of spectrum sharing to update the Radio Regulations, which will go a long way to forge a path that provides a stable and predictable regulatory environment, essential for the development of innovative radiocommunication services for all.

At the RA-23, Member States unanimously approved the appointment of Mr. Mohammad Aljnoobi of Saudi Arabia as the Chair of the Radiocommunication Advisory Group.

Let us give him a round of applause and welcome him to this new role.

Chair, I look forward to working closely with you in your leadership of the RAG.

Let me take this opportunity to appreciate our previous RAG Chairman, Mr. Daniel Obam. I hope that he will continue to participate in the RAG and lend us his wisdom and insights.

As you surely remember, RA-23 delegated to the RAG the responsibility to appoint its Vice-Chairs. These appointments are part of the agenda of this first RAG meeting.

Dear participants,

We have now started a new study cycle of ITU-R Study Group activities and global preparations for WRC-27. Your contribution will be key in advising me and the Bureau and supporting the work of the study groups, especially as increasing demands on the radio frequency spectrum makes its management and the work of the ITU-R of growing importance to the global community at-large.

This meeting of the RAG will consider the results of the RA-23 and WRC-23 and the consequential actions that the RAG was called upon to undertake.

As you are aware, the principal roles of the Radiocommunication Advisory Group are, *inter alia*, to review priorities, programs, operations, financial matters, and strategies related to Radiocommunication Assemblies, Study Groups and the preparation of Radiocommunication Conferences. The RAG also recommends measures to foster cooperation and coordination with other standards bodies, as well as with the TSB, the BDT, and the General Secretariat.

At this 31st meeting of the Radiocommunication Advisory Group, we will continue the consideration of such topics that are under the purview of the RAG.

To this end, the BR Director's Report to this meeting provides information on Council matters, on the activities of the ITU-R Study Groups, the status of the development of software, publications and the organization of seminars and workshops.

Last year, the RAG participants were disappointed that they were not provided with a specific Operational Plan for the ITU-R, and requested that, at the next RAG meeting, a separate document be presented that explains the aspects of the ITU-R Sector/Bureau that are in the combined operational plan.

That feedback was heard, and this meeting of the RAG will consider Document 5, which is the draft ITU-R Operational Plan. This contribution should facilitate the RAG's review of the implementation of the operational plan and advise the BR Director on any necessary corrective measures.

Dear friends,

I will conclude here my opening remarks, as I see that we have an extensive agenda for this meeting.

I know that I can count on the guidance of the RAG to help progress the work in the ITU-R and I assure you the Radiocommunication Bureau will continue to assist you moving forward.

I look forward to a very productive and successful meeting ahead.