



## Radiocommunication Bureau (BR)

Administrative Circular  
CA/275

31 May 2024

**To Administrations of Member States of the ITU, Radiocommunication Sector Members,  
ITU-R Associates and ITU Academia**

Subject: **WMO-ITU Regional Seminar 2024 for CIS Countries\* “Earth observation for Sustainable Development Goals: technologies, spectrum, applications, impacts”  
Almaty, Kazakhstan, 16-17 September 2024**

### 1 Introduction

Following the success of the World Meteorological Organization ([WMO](#)) and the International Telecommunication Union ([ITU](#)) joint seminars in 2009 and 2017, I am pleased to inform you that WMO and ITU are organizing a subsequent Regional Seminar 2024 for CIS Countries, kindly hosted by the Ministry of Digital Development, Innovations and Aerospace Industry of the Republic of Kazakhstan (<https://www.gov.kz/memleket/entities/mdai?lang=en>) in cooperation with the Regional Commonwealth in the Field of Communications, RCC (<https://en.rcc.org.ru>). This Regional Seminar will be the first event in the new joint WMO-ITU capacity building program for the 2024-2027 period, followed by similar events for other ITU Regions.

The seminar aims to increase awareness about national meteorological or hydrological services (NMHS), the importance of meteorological related spectrum protection and the growing need for their participation in national and international spectrum management activities, especially in the framework of the preparation to ITU World Radiocommunication Conferences. Also, the seminar will provide spectrum managers and state telecom administrators with an overview of contemporary Earth observation and meteorological applications' use of radio spectrum and their future development and will illustrate the socio-economic importance of these services within the context of the UN sustainable development goals (SDGs).

### 2 Seminar programme

Background information and the draft programme are presented in Annex 1.

A webpage for participants is to be found at:

ITU Web page at: [www.itu.int/Global-ITU-WMO](http://www.itu.int/Global-ITU-WMO)

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\* Seminar is also opened for participants of ITU-R Working Parties 7A, 7B, 7C, 7D meeting block, following the seminar.

Further information will be posted as soon as possible, together with a detailed programme of the seminar and the presentations.

Points of contact:

in ITU        Vadim Nozdrin, Counsellor, ITU-R Study Groups Department, Radiocommunication Bureau

E-mail: [vadim.nozdrin@itu.int](mailto:vadim.nozdrin@itu.int)

Tel:        +41 22 730 60 16

in WMO        Natalia Donoho, Head, WMO Space Systems and Utilization, World Meteorological Organization

E-mail: [ndonoho@wmo.int](mailto:ndonoho@wmo.int)

Tel:        + 41 79 509 0199

The seminar will be conducted in Russian with simultaneous interpretation into English.

### **3 Meeting venue**

The seminar is to be held at the Hotel Novotel Almaty City Center:

Address:    Dostyk Avenue 104 A, Almaty, Kazakhstan

Website:   <https://novotel-almaty-city-center.almaty-hotel.com/en/>

### **4 Participation**

ITU Member States and Academia as well as ITU-R Sector Members and Associates from the CIS countries are invited to attend the seminar. The seminar is also open to participants of ITU-R Working Parties 7A, 7B, 7C, 7D meeting block, which will take place following this event.

Registration for ITU-R events is mandatory and carried out exclusively online through Designated Focal Points (DFPs). Each ITU-R Member has been requested to designate a DFP responsible for the handling of all registration formalities, including visa support requests that should also be submitted by the DFP during the on-line registration process. Individuals wishing to be registered for an ITU-R event should directly contact the DFP for their entity. The list of ITU-R DFPs (TIES protected) as well as detailed information on event registration can be found at:

[www.itu.int/en/ITU-R/information/events](http://www.itu.int/en/ITU-R/information/events)

For WMO National Meteorological and Hydrological Services (NMHS) registration please contact Natalia Donoho (see above).

Please consider that the deadline for registration is **1 September 2024**.

### **5 Remote participation and webcast**

Due to technical reasons, audio webcast, recording of the proceedings of the seminar and remote participation will not be provided.

## **6 Practical information for participants**

All practical information for participants is presented in Annexes 2 and 3. Please check the seminar webpage regularly for possible updates.

Mario Maniewicz,  
Director

**Annexes: 3**

## **Annex 1**

### **Background Paper**

#### **Enhancing Earth observation and meteorology through efficient spectrum management**

According to UN forecasts, by 2050, the world's population will reach 9 billion people. The task of ensuring the basic essential needs of humanity - water, food, adequate living conditions - becomes critically important in the face of gradual depletion of natural resources, climate change, and the increasing number of natural disasters. Recognizing the urgent need to develop measures to overcome potential crises, leaders of the global community have established 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), for which optimal management mechanisms should be found, reducing consumption through efficient use of resources and ensuring the protection of our planet's natural ecosystems.

Within the framework of achieving the SDGs, special importance is placed on Earth observation and meteorological systems. They make a direct or indirect contribution to the achievement of all Goals without exception. Additionally, data obtained through the use of relevant remote sensing systems are indispensable for monitoring the results of actions taken. For example, about 30 out of 232 indicators developed to monitor the progress of SDGs achievement can only be assessed using data obtained from Earth remote sensing satellites.

From the perspective of using radio frequency spectrum, it is pertinent to note that in this case, it is necessary not only to provide access to this natural resource for the relevant complex of radio systems but also to guarantee complete radio silence in bands used globally for studying various characteristics of the atmosphere and Earth's surface through controlling emissions of natural origin.

For over 140 years, starting with the International Telegraph Union and the International Meteorological Organization in the late 1800s, which respectively become the ITU and WMO in the 1950s, there has been fruitful collaboration and partnership between the global meteorological and telecommunication agencies. While WMO focuses its efforts on meeting the needs for making and disseminating weather, climate, water, and related environmental observations and corresponding services and applications, ITU, as international steward of the radio spectrum, allocates the necessary radio frequencies to allow the interference-free operation of radio-based space and terrestrial systems and applications employed for weather, water and climate monitoring.

More effective communication of the added value of the economic and societal benefits provided by existing and future meteorological observations needs to be developed. Future spectrum management must be based on careful balance of public and private interests to define a worldwide harmonized way for efficient spectrum use and requires more active involvement of meteorological agencies in the decision-making process.

The seminar aims:

- to increase awareness of national meteorological or hydrological services of the importance of meteorological related spectrum protection and the growing need for their participation in national and international spectrum management activities;
- to provide spectrum managers and state telecom administrators an overview of contemporary meteorological applications' use of radio spectrum and their future development as well as to illustrate the socio-economic importance of these services within the context of the SDGs;
- to encourage information exchange between national meteorological and hydrological services and national regulatory authorities.

The regular WMO-ITU Seminar is intended to kick-off a post-World Radiocommunication Conference 2023 (WRC-23) cycle. The following topics are to be discussed:

- *Overview of WMO and ITU activities for Earth observation and meteorology*, and meteorological and hydrological infrastructure that underpins weather and related environmental services worldwide.
- *Radio technologies of Earth observations and meteorology*: A general overview of existing radio systems and new technological development will be considered.
- *Space agencies outlook*: Consideration of current and future missions, applications, existing and future spectrum requirements.
- *Economic value of Earth observation, Societal Benefits, and Empowering Decision Making*.
- *Impact of RFI on spectrum use for Earth observation*: The situation with the degradation of measurements and interference cases, especially in passive bands, should be highlighted, and possible ways to keep the spectrum clean, such as regulation, monitoring, reporting, enforcement, to be discussed.
- *Results of WRC-23 and preparation for WRC-27*: Lessons to be learned for future conferences are to be discussed to improve preparation for the next WRC. Preliminary discussion of agenda items of the future WRC targeted at defining interests and potential threats to the spectrum used by Earth observation and meteorological agencies to define priorities and strategies for the next study cycle.

The seminar is opened for specialists from state regulatory bodies, national meteorological or hydrological services, frequency management and space agencies, R&D institutions, equipment developers and manufacturers from CIS countries.

## Draft programme

### WMO-ITU Regional Seminar “Earth observations for Sustainable Development Goals: technologies, spectrum, applications, impacts”

(16-17 September 2024, Almaty)

	16 September 2024		17 September 2024
<b>0930-1000</b>	Opening	<b>0900-1030</b>	Space agencies outlook: Evolution of Earth observation programs
<b>1020-1200</b>	Overview of WMO and ITU activities for Earth observation and meteorology	<b>1100-1230</b>	Space agencies outlook: Evolution of Earth observation programs
<b>1330-1530</b>	Radio technologies of Earth observations	<b>1400-1530</b>	Impact of RFI on spectrum use for Earth Observation
<b>1600-1800</b>	Economic value of Earth observation, Societal Benefits and Empowering Decision Making	<b>1600-1730</b>	World Radiocommunication Conference issues

## Annex 2

### Practical information for the participants

This Annex provides both information on the Seminar and guidance to the delegates for their travel and stay in Almaty, Republic of Kazakhstan.

#### 1 Seminar venue

The seminar is to be held at the Hotel Novotel Almaty City Center:

Address: Dostyk Avenue 104 A, Almaty, Kazakhstan

Website: <https://novotel-almaty-city-center.almaty-hotel.com/en/>

#### 2 Travel

Almaty International Airport is connected with many international hubs by Lufthansa, Turkish Airlines, Qatar Airlines, AirAstana and Pegasus air companies. For more info: <https://alaport.com/en-EN/>.

Hotel(s) can be reached from airport using Novotel prepaid taxi (*recommended*) (use form in Annex 3 for reservation) or ride application [YandexGo](#).

Public buses and airport taxis are also available on-site at the arrival level of the Airport.

#### 3 Visa

Kazakhstan has resumed the 30-day visa free entry regime for citizens of 57 countries. For more information [https://egov.kz/cms/en/articles/for\\_foreigners/visa\\_regime\\_for\\_foreigners](https://egov.kz/cms/en/articles/for_foreigners/visa_regime_for_foreigners).

Nationals for whom an entry visa for Kazakhstan is required should request one in advance from the nearest Embassy or Consulate of the Republic of Kazakhstan. For visa support and invitation please contact:

Ministry of Digital Development, Innovations and Aerospace Industry of the Republic of Kazakhstan

Ms Ali Salida

Tel.: +7 747 720 4181

E-mail: [comadmkaz@gmail.com](mailto:comadmkaz@gmail.com)

#### 4 Accommodation and food options

A room block has been set aside for ITU delegates at a discounted rate in the Hotel Novotel Almaty City Center. Reservations made within this room block using the designated reservation method have a reduced daily room rate and include amenities such as complimentary internet access and breakfast. In order to facilitate the meeting's logistics, the hosts have guaranteed a certain number of room nights at the designated hotel and delegates are encouraged to consider this offer.

*NOTE* – Reservations must be made by **15 August 2024**. Please make every effort to book your rooms as early as possible. The room block is limited and may sell out prior to the cutoff date. Because there are other major conferences and conventions occurring during the time of the meeting, delegates are encouraged to respect this deadline.

Please use the hotel reservation form as provided in Annex 3.

Should you experience any difficulties when making your reservations please contact Novotel service desk (7/24): +7 727 355 38 38.

[h8582-fo2@accor.com](mailto:h8582-fo2@accor.com)

[h8582-re@accor.com](mailto:h8582-re@accor.com)

[h8582-re1@accor.com](mailto:h8582-re1@accor.com)

Breakfast is included in the room rate.

On-site lunch service in the restaurant of the Hotel Novotel Almaty City Center will be offered at personal expense. Pre-booking of lunch vouchers is required by use of reservation form in Annex 3.

Alternative options for accommodation in Almaty can be arranged by popular online travel platforms.

Delegates may explore a wide range of restaurants and cafés in the proximity of the meeting venue.

## **5 Monetary unit of the Republic of Kazakhstan and payment options**

The monetary unit is the “Tenge”.

Exchange rate at 1 May 2024:	1 United States dollar	~ 448 tenge
	1 Euro	~ 478 tenge

Internationally recognized credit cards such as VISA and MasterCard are typically accepted at most hotels, shops and restaurants.

## **6 Local time zone**

GMT +5 hours (no daylight zone).

## **7 Mains voltage**

220 V, type C/F plug.



## **8 Weather**

The average air temperature in Almaty in September ranges from +18 to + 22°C. The weather in September is for the most part sunny and warm.

## **9 Language**

Official language of the Republic of Kazakhstan is Kazakh, but most of the population speaks Russian as a second language. Some English is also spoken.



### Annex 3

## Reservation request form for the event member 15-27 September 2024



Reservation  
Request Form ENG.ç

