



Radiocommunication Bureau (BR)

Administrative Circular
CA/283

20 May 2026

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

Subject: **WMO-ITU Global Seminar on Spectrum use for meteorology: challenges,
opportunities and evolving requirements – Geneva, Switzerland,
28-30 September 2026**

1 Introduction

In continuation of the joint WMO–ITU activities in the lead-up to [WRC-27](#), I am pleased to inform you that the World Meteorological Organization ([WMO](#)) and the International Telecommunication Union ([ITU](#)) are organizing a Third Global Seminar on Spectrum use for meteorology: challenges, opportunities and evolving requirements. The event will be held in Geneva, Switzerland, on 28-30 September 2026.

The Seminar is expected to strengthen cooperation between stakeholders, improve understanding of spectrum requirements for meteorology, and contribute to ensuring the sustainable and resilient operation of Earth observation systems in light of preparation to WRC-27. The Seminar will also highlight a new edition of the [WMO/ITU Handbook](#) on the “Use of radio spectrum for meteorology: weather, climate, water and related environmental applications”.

2 Seminar programme

Background information and the draft programme are presented in the Annexes.

A webpage for participants is to be found at ITU Web page at:

[Spectrum use for meteorology – ITU WMO | World Meteorological Organization](#)

Further information will be posted as soon as possible, together with a detailed programme of the Seminar and the presentations. The Seminar will be conducted in English.

3 Meeting venue

The Seminar will be held at the ITU Headquarters, Place des Nations, Geneva. The registration desk is located in the entrance of the [ITU Montbrillant \(M\) building at 2 rue de Varembe, Geneva](#).

4 Participation

ITU Member States, Sector Members, Associates, ITU Academia and to any individual from a country which is a member of the ITU and who wishes to contribute to the Seminar. This also includes individuals who are members of international, regional, and national organizations. 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. The list of ITU-R DFPs (TIES protected) as well as detailed information on how to register for ITU-R events can be found at:

www.itu.int/en/ITU-R/information/events

Please consider that the deadline for registration is **15 September 2026**. Please be aware that the capacity of the meeting room is limited.

5 Remote participation and webcast

Access to Seminar sessions is restricted to event registered participants only and can be accessed from the webpage for remote participation:

www.itu.int/en/events/Pages/Virtual-Sessions.aspx

These virtual meeting session connections will become available 30 minutes before the starting time of each session.

For those interested in following the proceedings of ITU-R meetings remotely, an audio webcast of the Working Party plenary sessions will be provided. Participants do not need to register for the meeting to use the webcast facility, however [TIES access](#) is required.

For further questions relating to this Circular Letter, please contact Mr Vadim Nozdrin, ITU R Study Group 7 Counsellor, at vadim.nozdrin@itu.int.

Yours faithfully,

Mario Maniewicz
Director

Annexes: 2

Copy:

- Administrations of Member States of the ITU
- Radiocommunication Sector Members
- ITU Academia
- Chairmen and Vice-Chairmen of Radiocommunication Study Groups
- Chairman and Vice-Chairmen of the Radiocommunication Advisory Group
- Chairman and Vice-Chairmen of the Conference Preparatory Meeting
- Members of the Radio Regulations Board
- Secretary-General of the ITU, Director of the Telecommunication Standardization Bureau, Director of the Telecommunication Development Bureau
- Secretary-General of the WMO
- Secretariat Director of the Intergovernmental Group on Earth Observations (GEO)
- Director of the UNOOSA

Annex 1

WMO–ITU Global Seminar: Spectrum use for meteorology: challenges, opportunities and evolving requirements

Radio-frequency spectrum is a fundamental resource for meteorological observations and Earth system monitoring. Both space-based and terrestrial systems rely on spectrum not only for data transmission, but also as an essential part of the measurement process, particularly in passive sensing. Increasing demand for spectrum from other radiocommunication services is placing growing pressure on frequency bands used by meteorological systems, raising concerns regarding their long-term availability and protection. Meteorological observations underpin weather forecasting, climate monitoring and early warning systems. Any degradation in data quality or availability, including due to radio-frequency interference, may have direct consequences for public safety, economic activities and environmental protection. Ensuring reliable and continuous access to spectrum is therefore critical for maintaining the performance of meteorological services worldwide.

The observation ecosystem is rapidly evolving:

- major space programmes and coordinated international systems continue to provide the backbone of global observations;
- industry is advancing sensing technologies, including radars and radiometers;
- commercial operators are introducing additional data sources through small satellite constellations;
- data dissemination and processing increasingly rely on satellite broadcast systems and cloud-based platforms.

These developments create new opportunities, while also increasing the complexity of spectrum use and management.

Spectrum use is governed by the ITU Radio Regulations and supported by ITU-R studies. Ongoing preparations for World Radiocommunication Conferences, including WRC-27 and future work towards WRC-31, involve several agenda items relevant to meteorological services and require careful consideration to ensure adequate protection of essential frequency bands.

This WMO–ITU Global Seminar will:

- review the role of spectrum in meteorological observation systems;
- present user requirements from national meteorological agencies;
- discuss preparation for WRC-27 and WRC-31 on issues relevant to meteorology;
- address regulatory and interference-related challenges;
- highlight technological developments and industry perspectives;
- examine emerging trends, including commercial data and cloud-based processing.

The Seminar will also mark the publication of a new joint WMO–ITU Handbook entitled “Use of Radio Spectrum for Meteorology: Weather, Climate, Water and related Environmental Applications”, providing an updated reference on systems, requirements and spectrum considerations.

Annex 2
Draft Seminar Program
(28-30 September 2026, Geneva, Switzerland)

28 September 2026	
08.30-9.30	Registration
09.30-10.00	Opening ceremony and inauguration of new Handbook signature
10.30-12.00	Overview of WMO and ITU activities for Earth observation and meteorology
13.30-15.00	Radio technologies of Earth observations
15.30-17.00	Radio technologies of Earth observations

29 September 2026	
09.00-10.30	Meteorology and spectrum: societal benefits and public value
11.00-12.30	Meteorology and spectrum: operational needs and protection
14.00-15.30	World Radiocommunication Conferences (WRC) 2027 and 2031
16.00-17.30	Impact of radio-frequency interference on spectrum use for meteorology

30 September 2026	
09.00-10.30	Overview of space-based meteorological observation programmes
11.00-12.30	Overview of space-based Earth observation programmes
14.00-15.30	Industry perspectives on meteorological observation technologies I
16.00-17.00	Industry perspectives on meteorological observation technologies II
