

---

*ITU/WMO Seminar on:  
Use of Radio Spectrum for Meteorology:  
Weather, Water and Climate Monitoring and Prediction  
Geneva, 16-18 September 2009*

# **ITU Radiocommunication Standardization Activities**

*Kevin HUGHES  
Chief of ITU-R Study Group Department  
E-mail: [kevin.hughes@itu.int](mailto:kevin.hughes@itu.int)*



---

*Committed to connecting the world*

---

# Presentation



- Objectives of ITU-R Study Groups
- Structure of Study Groups
- Radiocommunication Assembly
- Scope of Study Groups
- Some key areas of standardization
- ITU-R Recommendations, Reports and Handbooks

## Role of ITU-R

- ensure the rational, equitable, efficient and economical use of the radio-frequency spectrum by all radiocommunication services, including those using the geostationary-satellite or other satellite orbits,...
- carry out studies without limit of frequency range and adopting Recommendations on radiocommunication matters.

(ref. Article 12 of Constitution)

# Role of ITU-R

**Role conducted through** (*inter alia*):

- World (and Regional) Radiocommunication Conferences
- Approval of **Recommendations** by Member States

**Technical studies** are required  
which are conducted in **Study Groups**



International  
Telecommunication  
Union

Committed to connecting the world

# Principal Tasks of ITU-R Study Groups

Develop technical bases for  
WRCs (and RRCs)



e.g. CPM process  
for WRCs

Develop Recommendations



International voluntary *Standards* on:

- spectrum management, satellite orbits, frequency sharing
- system characteristics and operation



ITU-R represents:

**International focal point for the  
standardization of wireless systems**

Compile Reports and Handbooks

# ITU-R Study Groups

- Groups of experts (> 1500) from ITU membership

- Currently 6 Study Groups

- Subordinate to:
  - Working Party
  - Technical Group
  - Study Group

- Working Party

- Technical Group

- Study Group

UN bodies

e.g. WHO, WMO

- International Commission for Vocational Cooperation

- International Telecommunication Regulatory Laboratory

- WP 7C: Remote Sensing Systems

- WP 7A: Wireless Local Area Networks

e.g. WiMAX

Member States

Sector Members

Associates

SG 1: Spectrum management

SG 3: Radiowave propagation

SG 4: Satellite services

SG 5: Terrestrial services

SG 6: Broadcasting services

SG 7: Science services

WP 5D: IMT

Regional/National

SDO's

e.g. ETSI, IEC

WP 1C: spectrum monitoring

Regional Frequency

Management

e.g. CEPT

WP 4A: Orbit/spectrum utilization

# ITU-R Study Groups

- **SG 1:** Spectrum management
- **SG 3:** Radiowave propagation
- **SG 4:** Satellite services
- **SG 5:** Terrestrial services
- **SG 6:** Broadcasting service
- **SG 7:** Science services

Supported by Counsellors  
and Assistants in Study  
Group Department of BR

# Radiocommunication Assembly

- convened every 3-4 years
- associated in time and place with WRCs

(Article 13 of Constitution)

- Adopts Study Group work programmes
- Approves ITU-R Resolutions
  - working procedures
  - specific aspects of Study Group responsibility
- Approves Recommendations
- Establishes ITU-R Study Groups (and elects their chairmen/vice-chairmen)



---

# Study Group 1

## Spectrum management

Principles and techniques for

- spectrum management
- sharing criteria
- spectrum monitoring
- long-term strategies for spectrum utilization

- Short Range radio Devices (SRD)
- International spectrum regulatory framework

---

# Study Group 3

## Radiowave propagation

- Propagation in ionized and non-ionized media
- Development of prediction methods

- Characteristics and mapping of propagation medium
- Propagation prediction methods  
e.g. for terrestrial digital broadcasting (RRC-06)

# Study Group 4

## Satellite services

- Systems and performance in FSS, BSS, MSS and RDSS
- Efficient orbit/spectrum utilization for FSS, BSS, MSS and RDSS
- IP Global broadband Internet access via satellite
- Early warning and relief operations

- Technical characteristics for systems and networks in the RNSS
- Satellite radio interface of IMT-2000



International  
Telecommunication  
Union

*Committed to connecting the world*

# Study Group 5

## Terrestrial services

- IMT-2000 and IMT-Advanced
- Fixed, mobile, portable and nomadic communications, including BWA, RLANs, HAPS
- Maritime and aeronautical services
- Radiodetermination service
- Amateur service
- SDR and CRs

- Next generation mobile access “IMT Advanced”
- Spectrum issues for maritime and aeronautical services



International  
Telecommunication  
Union

*Committed to connecting the world*

---

# Study Group 6

## Broadcasting service

- Programme production
- Programme assembly
- Delivery
- Reception quality

- Sharing issues at UHF

- Multimedia and data broadcasting for mobile reception

# Study Group 7

## Science services

- Systems for space operation, space research, Earth exploration and meteorology
- Radio astronomy
- Standard frequency and time signals

- EESS including meteorological satellite service for disaster prediction and detection, and for climate monitoring
- Protection of passive services, e.g. Radio astronomy

# ITU-R Study Groups on Internet



International  
Telecommunication  
Union

Committed to connecting the world

A screenshot of a web browser displaying the ITU-R Study Groups website. The browser's address bar shows 'Radiocommunication Sector (ITU-R) - Study Groups'. The website header includes the ITU logo, navigation links in Arabic, Chinese, Spanish, French, and Russian, and a search bar. A red navigation bar contains 'Radiocommunication Sector (ITU-R)' and 'Home | ITU Sectors | Newsroom | Events | Publications | About Us'. The main content area is titled 'Study Groups' and is divided into four sections: 'Scope', 'Structure', 'General Information', and 'Disbanded Groups'. The 'Scope' section describes the participation of over 1,500 specialists and lists activities like drafting technical bases, developing draft recommendations, and compiling handbooks. The 'Structure' section lists various study groups and committees, including SG 1 (Spectrum management), SG 3 (Radiowave propagation), SG 4 (Satellite services), SG 5 (Terrestrial Services), SG 6 (Broadcasting service), SG 7 (Science services), CCV (Coordination Committee for Vocabulary), CPM (Conference Preparatory Meeting), and SC (Special Committee). The 'General Information' section provides links to 'Scope', 'Study Groups Structure', 'Brochure', 'Chairmen and Vice-Chairmen', and 'Chairmen and Vice-Chairmen Meetings'. The 'Disbanded Groups' section lists SG 8 (Mobile, radiodetermination, amateur and related satellite services) and SG 9 (Fixed service). The browser's status bar at the bottom shows 'Done' and 'Internet'.

See: <http://www.itu.int/ITU-R/go/rsq>



# SG Web Page Structure (using SG 7 as a sample)

## Study Group 7 (SG 7) - Science services

[Manage information](#)

<b>Scope</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>1 Systems for space operation, space research, Earth exploration and meteorology, including the related use of links in the inter satellite service.</li><li>2 Systems for remote sensing, including passive and active sensing systems, operating on both ground-based and space-based platforms.</li><li>3 Radio astronomy and radar astronomy.</li><li>4 Dissemination, reception and coordination of standard-frequency and time-signal services, including the application of satellite techniques, on a worldwide basis.</li></ul>	<b>Next meeting</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Monday 07/09/09 - Monday 07/09/09</li><li>Place : <b>Switzerland [Geneva]</b></li><li>Status : <b>Confirmed</b> - <a href="#">Add to Calendar</a></li><li><a href="#">Invitation</a></li><li><a href="#">On-line registration</a></li><li><a href="#">Study Group/Working Party meetings Sharepoint site</a> <b>New</b></li><li><a href="#">All meetings</a></li></ul> <p><a href="#">ITU-R Meetings schedule</a> - <a href="#">Meeting sessions</a> - <a href="#">Member Information and Delegate Registration</a></p>
<b>General Information</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li><a href="#">Brochure</a></li><li><a href="#">Chairmen and Vice-Chairmen</a></li><li><a href="#">Counsellor</a></li><li>Contributions submission: <a href="mailto:rsq7@itu.int">rsq7@itu.int</a></li><li><a href="#">Chairman's corner</a> <a href="#">TIES</a></li><li><a href="#">Mailing lists - FTP server</a> <a href="#">TIES</a></li><li><a href="#">ITU-R Electronic facilities</a></li></ul>	<b>Structure</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li><a href="#">Working Party 7A (WP 7A) - Time signals and frequency standard emissions</a></li><li><a href="#">Working Party 7B (WP 7B) - Space Radiocommunication Applications</a></li><li><a href="#">Working Party 7C (WP 7C) - Remote Sensing Systems</a></li><li><a href="#">Working Party 7D (WP 7D) - Radio astronomy</a></li></ul>
<b>Publications</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li><a href="#">ITU-R Questions - SG 7</a></li><li><a href="#">Recommendations - ITU-R RA Series</a></li><li><a href="#">Recommendations - ITU-R SA Series</a></li><li><a href="#">Recommendations - ITU-R RS Series</a></li><li><a href="#">Recommendations - ITU-R TF Series</a></li><li><a href="#">Reports - ITU-R RA Series</a></li><li><a href="#">Reports - ITU-R SA Series</a></li><li><a href="#">Reports - ITU-R RS Series</a></li></ul>	<b>Documents</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li><a href="#">Contributions</a> <a href="#">TIES</a> <a href="#">XML</a> <a href="#">?</a></li><li><a href="#">Study Group 7 Summary Record (Meeting: 6 and 14/10/08)</a> <a href="#">TIES</a></li><li><a href="#">Administrative Documents (ADM)</a> <a href="#">TIES</a></li><li><a href="#">Information Documents (INFO)</a> <a href="#">TIES</a></li><li><a href="#">Fascicles</a></li><li>Status of texts <a href="#">English only</a></li><li><a href="#">Circular Letters (LCCE)</a> <a href="#">XML</a> <a href="#">?</a></li><li><a href="#">Administrative Circulars (CA)</a> <a href="#">XML</a> <a href="#">?</a></li><li><a href="#">Administrative Circulars (CACE)</a> <a href="#">XML</a> <a href="#">?</a></li><li><a href="#">Administrative Circulars (CAR)</a> <a href="#">XML</a> <a href="#">?</a></li><li><a href="#">Archives</a></li></ul>
<b>Related activities</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li><a href="#">Rec. ITU-R TF.583 (Time codes)</a> <a href="#">English only</a></li><li><a href="#">Characteristics of standard-frequency and time-signal emissions (see also Rec. ITU-R TF.768 - Standard frequencies and time signals)</a> <a href="#">English only</a></li></ul>	



---

## Current key priorities in ITU-R Standardization include:

- **Emergency communications**
- **Environmental monitoring**



International  
Telecommunication  
Union

Committed to connecting the world

# Emergency Communications

**Prediction and Detection:** Meteorological services (Met-Aids, Met-Sat); Earth Exploration Satellite Service

**Alerting:** Amateur service; Broadcasting services (terrestrial and satellite); fixed services (terrestrial and satellite); Mobile services (land, satellite, maritime)

**Damage assessment and Relief:** Amateur service; Broadcasting services (terrestrial and satellite); fixed services (terrestrial and satellite); Mobile services (land, satellite, maritime); Earth Exploration Satellite Service



**Regulatory role**



**Standardization role**

---

# Emergency Communications

## **Databases relating to safety of life and rescue operations**

- available frequencies for use in emergency situations and guidelines on the management of radiocommunications (Res 647 (WRC-07), Res ITU-R 53)
- Maritime mobile Access and retrieval System (MARS)

## **Regionally Harmonized Frequency Bands for Public Protection and Disaster Relief**

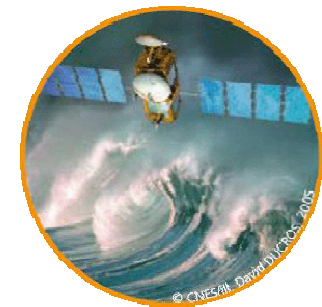
- preferred frequency bands listed in Res 646 (WRC-03)

## **Study Group activities**

- spectrum management guidelines
- Recommendations, Reports, Handbooks providing technical basis for development and operation of the radiocommunication services used in the various phases of emergency and disaster situations

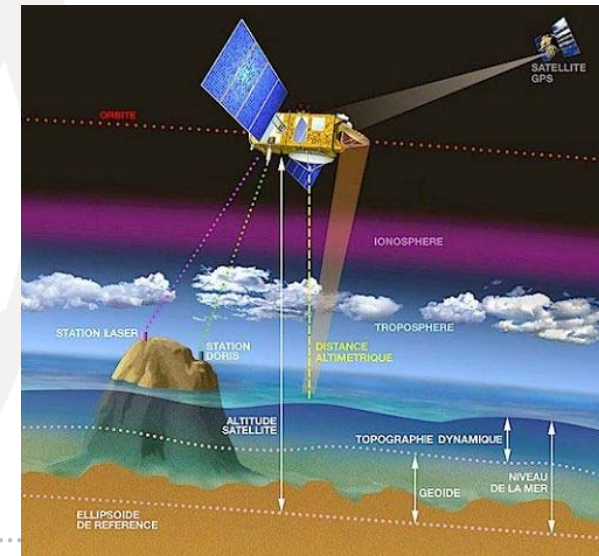
# Climate change

- ITU-R's standardization role on monitoring and mitigating the effects of climate change is very closely linked with that on Emergency Communications
- Through its responsibility for international spectrum management, ITU-R provides interference-free spectrum and satellite orbits for climate monitoring
- Cooperates with UN agencies (e.g. WMO) and international and national organizations involved with climate change



# Climate change

- Study Groups develop Recommendations, Reports and Handbooks on
  - operation of radio systems for environmental monitoring, including climate change; e.g. ITU/WMO Handbook on "Use of Radio spectrum for meteorology: weather, water and climate monitoring and prediction"
  - facilitating the introduction and operation of low-energy systems; e.g. analogue to digital broadcasting
- Satellite-based remote sensors (passive and active) are main tools for obtaining environmental data for climate monitoring
- Systems belonging to
  - Earth exploration satellite service
  - Meteorological-satellite service
  - Meteorological aids serviceform backbone of the  
*WMO Global Climate Observing System*



# Study Group Products

- **Technical bases for WRC (and RRC)**
  - ➔ **CPM Report**
- ITU-R Recommendations
- Reports and Handbooks

# Table of contents of the CPM Report to WRC-11



Committed to connecting the world

## Chapters of CPM Report

## WRC-11 Agenda items

- |  |  |
|--|--|
| ■ <u>1.</u> Maritime and Aeronautical issues       | <u>1.3</u> , <u>1.4</u> , <u>1.9</u> , <u>1.10</u>                       |
| ■ <u>2.</u> Radiolocation and Amateur issues       | <u>1.14</u> , <u>1.15</u> , <u>1.21</u> , <u>1.23</u>                    |
| ■ <u>3.</u> Fixed, Mobile and Broadcasting issues  | <u>1.5</u> , <u>1.8</u> , <u>1.17</u> , <u>1.20</u> , <u>1.22</u>        |
| ■ <u>4.</u> <b>Science issues</b>                  | <u>1.6</u> , <u>1.11</u> , <u>1.12</u> , <u>1.16</u> , <u>1.24</u>       |
| ■ <u>5.</u> Satellite issues                       | <u>1.7</u> , <u>1.13</u> , <u>1.18</u> , <u>1.25</u> , <u>7</u>          |
| ■ <u>6.</u> Future work programme and other issues | <u>1.2</u> , <u>1.19</u> , <u>2</u> , <u>4</u> , <u>8.1</u> , <u>8.2</u> |

---

# Study Group Products

- Technical bases for WRC (and RRC)
  - ➔ CPM Report
- **ITU-R Recommendations**
- Reports and Handbooks



---

# ITU-R Recommendation Series



*Committed to connecting the world*

- **BO:** Satellite delivery
- **BR:** Recording for production, archival and play-out; film for television
- **BS:** Broadcasting service (sound)
- **BT:** Broadcasting service (television)
- **F:** Fixed service
- **M:** Mobile, radiodetermination, amateur and related satellite services
- **P:** Radiowave propagation
- **RA:** Radio astronomy
- **RS:** Remote sensing systems
- **S:** Fixed-satellite service
- **SA:** Space applications and meteorology
- **SF:** Frequency sharing and coordination between fixed-satellite and fixed service systems
- **SM:** Spectrum management
- **SNG:** Satellite news gathering
- **TF:** Time signals and frequency standards emissions
- **V:** Vocabulary and related subjects

---

# Study Group Products

- Technical bases for WRC (and RRC)
  - ➔ CPM Report
- ITU-R Recommendations
- **Reports and Handbooks**

# Example Reports from ITU-R

- Economic aspects of spectrum management
- **Sharing of the 10.6-10.68 GHz band by the fixed and mobile services and the Earth exploration-satellite service (passive)**
- Fixed service applications using free-space optical links
- Means of calculating low-orbit satellite visibility statistics
- Guidelines for evaluation of radio interface technologies for IMT-Advanced
- Transition from analogue to digital terrestrial broadcasting

---

# Example Handbooks from ITU-R

- National Spectrum Management
- Spectrum Monitoring
- Satellite Communications (FSS)
- Radiowave Propagation information for designing terrestrial point-to-point links
- **Use of radio spectrum for meteorology: weather, water, climate monitoring and prediction**
- Digital terrestrial TV broadcasting
- Land mobile including wireless access
- Frequency adaptive systems

---

# Concluding remarks

- ITU Radiocommunication Sector represents focal point for standardization of radiocommunication services and systems
- The **ITU-R Study Groups** are the “home” for the technical studies required for the standardization activities
- Principal products:
  - Technical bases for Radiocommunication Conferences
  - Recommendations, Reports and Handbooks



*Committed to connecting the world*

**Thank you!**