|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Radiocommunication Assembly (RA-15) Geneva, 26-30 October 2015** |  |
| **INTERNATIONAL TELECOMMUNICATION UNION** |  |
|  |  |
|  | **Document RA15/PLEN/48-E** |
| **27 October 2015** |
| **Original: English** |
|  | |
| SUMMARY REPORT OF THE OPENING CEREMONY  OF THE RADIOCOMMUNICATION ASSEMBLY | |
| Monday, 26 October 2015, 10:00 hours | |
| (Room 1+2 - CICG) | |

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
|  |  | | Documents |
| 1 | Opening of the Assembly by the Dean of the Heads of Delegation and approval of the agenda  The Secretary-General of the ITU, Mr Houlin Zhao, invited Mr Fabio Bigi (Italy), as Dean of the Heads of Delegation, to chair the meeting. Mr Bigi welcomed all participants to the meeting and officially declared the Radiocommunication Assembly 2015 (RA-15) opened.  The proposed Agenda was approved without change. | | ADM/2 |
| 2 | Appointment of the Chairman and Vice-Chairmen of the Radiocommunication Assembly  Mr Bigi presented the proposal for Chairman and Vice-Chairmen of the Radiocommunication Assembly that was unanimously agreed by the Heads of delegation meeting held earlier at 0900. The proposal was:  Chairman Dr A. Hashimoto (Japan)  Vice-Chairmen Dr E. Azzouz (Egypt)  Mr M. Girouard (Canada)  Mr A. Kühn (Germany)  Mr L. Momba (Malawi)  Mr M. Simonov (Russian Federation)  The proposal was approved by acclamation.  Mr Bigi invited the newly elected Chairman of the RA, Dr Akira Hashimoto, to take over the chairmanship of the meeting. | |  |
| 3 | Address by the Chairman of the Radiocommunication Assembly  The address of the Chairman of the RA is provided in Annex 1. |  | |
| 4 | Address by the Secretary-General of ITU  The address of the Secretary-General of ITU is provided in Annex 2. |  | |
| 5 | Address by the Director of the Radiocommunication Bureau  The address of the Director of the Radiocommunication Bureau is provided in Annex 3. |  | |
| 6 | Closure of the session  The Chairman closed the opening ceremony at 10:20 hours. |  | |

Akira Hashimoto  
 Chairman, RA-15

ANNEX 1

Opening remarks of the Chairman of the 2015 Radiocommunication Assembly

Excellencies,  
Mr Secretary-General,   
Director of the Radiocommunication Bureau,   
Director of the Telecommunication Development Bureau,   
and Deputy Director of the Radiocommunication Bureau,

Ladies and gentlemen, good morning.

It is an honour for my administration Japan and our regional group Asia-Pacific Telecommunity as well as a great privilege for myself to have been chosen as Chairman of this Radiocommunication Assembly for 2015.

I am sure that I do not have to convince you of the importance of this Assembly. This study period from 2012 will conclude with this meeting while planning for the new study period over the next 4 years will start with the decisions we take over the coming days.

After the RA-12, the Study Groups have been very successful in conducting their assigned work in many aspects including Conference preparation and technical standardization.

In such situation, the Assembly is tasked with a number of important business to fulfil many essential purposes of the Union. Our discussion needs to take into account the rapid changes underway in the global telecommunications environment as well as its future needs.

Since I was nominated to Chairman of new Study Group 5 at the Assembly in 2007, I have fully appreciated the importance of the working methods for the various groups in the Sector which are specified in Resolution ITU-R 1. On review of this Resolution, there were significant efforts within the RAG, and its proposal is ready for consideration with other contributions submitted from administrations. This topic is one of the critical subjects at this Radiocommunication Assembly.

There are also many other ITU-R Resolutions to be updated or newly developed.

Furthermore, certain ITU-R Recommendations need to be considered at this meeting. For many of them, some administrations had difficulties in adopting them at the Study Group meeting. While appreciating these difficulties and also noting that some of them have relevance to the agenda items of WRC-15, we need to find solutions on these draft recommendations during this week.

Ladies and Gentlemen, we have much to do over the next 5 days in order to complete these works. I would encourage everyone to approach the discussions in a cooperative manner so that consensus positions can be reached even on the more contentious issues.

Finally, I would close my opening remark by saying that this Assembly and subsequent Conference would be my last meetings of ITU, where I have worked for 35 years since 1980, so I would do my best as Chairman of this meeting.

Thank you very much for your attention.

Akira Hashimoto  
Chairman, Radiocommunication Assembly 2015

ANNEX 2

Remarks by the Secretary-General at the Opening Ceremony  
of the 2015 Radiocommunication Assembly

Mr Chairman  
Excellencies  
Mr Rancy, Director, BR  
Mr Sanou, Director, BDT  
Ladies and Gentlemen  
Dear colleagues,

It is a privilege and an honour to address you this morning at the opening of the 2015 Radiocommunication Assembly. As for the World Radiocommunication Conference (WRC-15) that starts next week, the Radiocommunication Assembly represents a landmark in the life of the Radiocommunication Sector of the ITU.

In accordance with the ITU Constitution and Convention, the principal duties of a Radiocommunication Assembly may be summarized as follows:

– to provide the necessary technical bases for the work of World Radiocommunication Conferences and to respond to all requests from such Conferences,

– to consider and refine the working methods and procedures of the Sector, particularly those of the Study Groups,

– to establish future work programmes for the Study Groups,

– to consider Recommendations with a view to their approval.

In responding to these directives, this Assembly once again demonstrates the central role that the Radiocommunication Sector plays in the technological progress of telecommunications. In approving Recommendations and in defining future activities, you are recognizing the rapid changes underway in the global telecommunications environment and reacting in a manner commensurate with its future needs. As each Assembly and World Conference convenes, the issues become more diverse and complex, and in turn, technical solutions require greater innovation and skill. At the same time, although it is the task of WRC-15 to use your material to the best advantage, considerations of regulatory and procedural issues cannot be divorced from the technical studies.

Your charged programme this week has two main themes:

You are asked to review the working methods of the ITU-R Study Groups, the CCV, the RAG, the CPM and the Special Committee, including consideration of their structure, and ensure that they follow efficient and effective practices, commensurate with the budget available.

Secondly, you will be considering future work programmes, recognizing the ever-changing global telecommunications environment in which we are operating.

Your deliberations will need to balance technological needs against those of compatibility between the various services, at the same time seeking innovative means to optimize the use of the frequency spectrum for the good of all. It is here that your work represents such an important contribution to the forthcoming and future World Conferences.

Dear colleagues,

This year ITU is celebrating its' 150th anniversary. Throughout this history the many remarkable achievements of the ITU have been built on the basis of consensus and compromises. I call on you to observe, during this week of the RA, and the following weeks of the WRC, the same spirit of cooperation, compromise and consensus that has always guided the work of this Union.

In all these aspects, I look forward to hearing of your fruitful results at the end of the week and wish to take this opportunity of conveying my best wishes for a successful and enjoyable Assembly.

Annex 3

Remarks by the Director BR, at the Opening Ceremony  
of the 2015 Radiocommunication Assembly

Excellencies,  
Mr Secretary-General,  
Mr Deputy Secretary-General,  
Fellow Directors,  
Ladies and gentlemen,  
Dear colleagues,

It is a pleasure and an honour to address the 2015 Radiocommunication Assembly. I would like to welcome you in Geneva. I hope you will have a nice stay and will find that the facilities provided during the Assembly meet your expectations.

The Radiocommunication Assembly marks the end of a study period and the start of a new one. It represents a point of transition in the life of the Sector and thereby provides a suitable occasion to review what has been achieved, to look ahead to what needs to be done, and to define the structure in which it shall be undertaken. In essence, this describes the business that you are facing for the next five days.

You have an opportunity to review the instruments upon which the Study Group activities are based, namely the ITU-R Resolutions. Such a review should constantly seek to increase efficiency both in the working methods of the Study Groups and when planning future work programmes. It is important that the ITU-R Resolutions provide clear guidance upon which the Study Groups can pursue their activities without imposing unnecessary bureaucracy which can so easily retard progress in the studies.

You will also have the delicate task of electing Chairmen and Vice-Chairmen to the Study Groups and to the CCV, CPM, RAG and SC. In this respect, due attention will need to be taken of the guidance provided in Resolution 166 (Rev. Busan, 2014).

At this Assembly, you will also have to consider a number of draft Recommendations developed by the Study Groups. In some cases, their submission to the Assembly is a result of difficulties experienced by administrations with their adoption or approval. Whilst fully appreciating such difficulties, I would nevertheless appeal to you to find solutions this week. To return these drafts to the Study Groups would not be an option. Reaching agreement will be a clear demonstration of the continuing strength of our Sector in adapting new standards and best practices on the use of spectrum and orbit resources.

You have only five days to accomplish your task – the time available for each item of business is extremely short and the time management of the meetings will have to be done with the utmost care. As always, you can rely on the staff of the Radiocommunication Bureau to provide every assistance. I am confident that with the good will that always prevails at events such as this one, together with the sound leadership of your Chairman, we can look forward to a rewarding Assembly and to a fruitful outcome on Friday.

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_