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| **World Radiocommunication Conference (WRC-15)Geneva, 2-27 November 2015** |  |
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| **PLENARY MEETING** | **Document 181-E** |
| **5 November 2015** |
| **Original: French/English** |

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| MINUTESOF THEFIRST PLENARY MEETING  |
| Monday, 2 November 2015, at 1100 hours  |
| **Chairman:** Mr H. AL-SHANKITI (Saudi Arabia) (Dean of the Heads of Delegation) **Later:** Mr F.Y.N. DAUDU (Nigeria) |

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# 1 Opening of the conference

1.1 The **Dean of the Heads of Delegation**, **Mr H. Al-Shankiti (Saudi Arabia)**, declared the World Radiocommunication Conference (Geneva, 2015) open. The agenda of the plenary meeting (Document ADM/1) had been approved by the meeting of Heads of Delegation.

# 2 Election of the Chairman of the Conference

2.1 The **Secretary-General** announced that, at the meeting of Heads of Delegation, it had been proposed that Mr Festus Yusufu Narai Daudu (Nigeria) should serve as Chairman of the Conference.

2.2 The proposal was **adopted** by acclamation.

2.3 **Mr Daudu took the chair**.

# 3 Address by the Chairman of the Conference

3.1 The **Chairman** delivered the address reproduced in Annex A.

3.2 The **delegate of Nigeria** thanked delegates on behalf of his country for having elected Mr Daudu as Chairman of the Conference. Nigeria was honoured that one of its citizens should be the first African to chair such an important conference. He wished its participants every success.

3.3 The **delegates of Egypt**, **Uruguay** (on behalf of CITEL), **Germany** (on behalf of the CEPT countries), the **United Arab Emirates** (on behalf of the Arab group), **Armenia** (on behalf of the RCC countries) and **New Zealand** (on behalf of the APT countries) congratulated the Chairman on his election in turn and assured him of their support, emphasizing that the spirit of consensus was the best guarantee of the Conference’s success.

# 4 Minute of silence in memory of the victims of Metrojet flight 9268

4.1 **The Conference observed a minute of silence in memory of the victims of Metrojet flight 9268 bound for St Petersburg**.

4.2 The **delegates of the Islamic Republic of Iran** and **Egypt,** the **Chairman,** the **Secretary-General**, speaking on behalf of the ITU administration, as well as the **delegates of** **Nigeria**, **Uruguay**, on behalf of CITEL, **Germany**, on behalf of the CEPT countries, the **United Arab Emirates**, on behalf of the Arab group, **Armenia**, on behalf of the RCC countries, and **New Zealand**, on behalf of the APT countries, expressed their sincerest condolences to the Russian Federation, its people and the Russian delegation.

4.3 The **delegate of the Russian Federation** thanked all participants for their words of sympathy and expressed appreciation to the Egyptian Government for its support in the investigation under way.

# 5 Election of the vice-chairmen of the conference

5.1 The **Secretary-General** announced that the meeting of Heads of Delegation had decided to propose the following six persons as vice-chairmen of the conference:

Mr A. Jamieson (New Zealand)
Mr Y. Al-Bulushi (Oman)
Mr D. Obam (Kenya)
Ms D. Tomimura (Brazil)
Mr A. Kühn (Germany)
Mr N. Nikiforov (Russian Federation)

5.2 The proposals were **adopted** by acclamation.

# 6 Address by the Secretary-General

6.1 The **Secretary-General** delivered the address reproduced in Annex B.

# 7 Address by the Director of the Radiocommunication Bureau

7.1 The **Director of the Radiocommunication Bureau** delivered the address reproduced in Annex C.

# 8 Conference structure (Document DT/2)

8.1 The **Secretary-General**, introducing Document DT/2, recalled that the Conference would discuss 40 issues or topics that would be allocated to three technical committees, namely Committees 4, 5 and 6, supplemented as usual by Committees 1 (Steering), 2 (Credentials), 3 (Budget Control) and 7 (Editorial). The terms of reference of each committee were set out in the aforementioned document.

8.2 document DT/2 was **approved**.

# 9 Election of the chairmen and vice-chairmen of the committees

9.1 The **Secretary-General** announced that the meeting of Heads of Delegation had decided to propose the following nominations for the posts of chairmen and vice-chairmen of the committees:

Committee 1 – Steering

Committee 1 comprised the Chairmen and Vice-Chairmen of the Conference and of the various Committees.

Committee 2 – Credentials

Chairman: Mr N. Meaney (Australia)
Vice-Chairmen: Mr M. Omer (Sudan)
 Mr H. Kanor (Ghana)
 Mr H. Budé (Uruguay)
 Mr G. Osinga (Netherlands)
 Mr G. Abdullaev (Azerbaijan)

Committee 3 – Budget Control

Chairman: Mr A. Kadirov (Uzbekistan)
Vice-Chairmen: Ms H. Seong (Korea (Rep. of))
 Mr A. Nwaulune (Nigeria)
 Mr M. Soliman (Egypt)
 Mr G. Malcolm (Jamaica)
 Mr A. Jonsson (Sweden)

Committee 4 – Specified agenda items

Chairman: Mr M. Fenton (United Kingdom)
Vice-Chairmen: Mr F. Xie (China)
 Mr A. Belkhadir (Morocco)
 Mr W. Sayed (Egypt)
 Ms C. Beaumier (Canada)
 Mr V. Poskakukhin (Russian Federation)

Committee 5 – Specified agenda items

Chairman: Mr K. Al Awadhi (United Arab Emirates)
Vice-Chairmen: Mr P.N. Phuong (Viet Nam)
 Mr M. Abdelhafiz (Sudan)
 Mr J. Levi (Argentina)
 Mr E. Fournier (France)
 Mr T. Kim (Kazakhstan)

Committee 6 – Specified agenda items

Chairman: Ms A. Allison (United States)

Vice-Chairmen: Ms K. Kim (Korea (Rep. of))
 Mr M. Al-Badi (Oman)
 Mr K. Niane (Senegal)
 Mr A. Calinciuc (Romania)
 Mr D. Korzun (Belarus)

Committee 7 – Editorial

Chairman: Mr C. Rissone (France)

Vice-Chairmen: Mr M. Abdulrahman (Lebanon)
Ms M. Donde (United Kingdom)
Mr J.G. Orea Sánchez (Spain)
Mr G. Cai (China)
Mr A. Zhivov (Russian Federation)

9.2 The proposals were **adopted** by acclamation.

# 10 Composition of the conference secretariat

10.1 The **Secretary-General** informed the conference that the following ITU staff members would make up the conference secretariat:

Secretary of the Conference: Mr H. Zhao (Secretary-General of ITU)

Secretary of the Plenary Meeting and Committee 1: Mr M. Maniewicz

Secretary of Committee 2: Mr N. Volanis

Secretaries of Committee 3: Mr A. Ba and Mr W. Ijeh

Secretary of Committee 4: Mr N. Vassiliev

Secretary of Committee 5: Mr M. Sakamoto

Secretary of Committee 6: Mr P. Aubineau

Secretary of Committee 7: Mr E. Dalhen

Administrative Secretary: Mr A. El-Sherbini

Executive Secretary: Mr M. Maniewicz

10.2 The composition of the conference secretariat was **noted**.

# 11 Invitations to the conference

11.1 The **Secretary of the Plenary Meeting** said that, in total, more than 3 800 delegates representing 162 Member States and 136 organizations were participating in the conference. The list of participants would be updated as necessary.

11.2 That information was **noted**.

# 12 Requests for participation received from international organizations

12.1 The **Secretary of the Plenary** said that no request under the agenda item in question had been received.

12.2 That information was **noted**.

# 13 Participation by observers (Document 19)

13.1 The Secretary of the Plenary, introducing Document 19, recalled that the rights of observers had been clarified by the Plenipotentiary Conference (Antalya, 2006) in its Resolution 145. He noted that the Chairman had agreed that observers participating in WRC-15 on a non-advisory basis who had requested the right to publish information documents should be authorized to do so. He read out the names of the observers in question: Broadcast Networks Europe (BNE), Caribbean Broadcasting Union (CBU), Asia-Pacific Broadcasting Union (ABU), Arab States Broadcasting Union (ASBU), African Union of Broadcasting (AUB), European Broadcasting Union (EBU), North American Broadcasters Association (NABA), International Association of Broadcasting (IAB), Committee on Radio Astronomy Frequencies (CRAF), European Organisation for the Exploitation of Meteorological Satellites (EUMETSAT), International Air Transport Association (IATA), International Astronomical Union (IAU), and Scientific Committee on Frequency Allocations for Radio Astronomy and Space Science (IUCAF).

13.2 Document 19 was **noted**.

13.3 The **observer from the International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO)** delivered a statement in which he emphasized that the mission of ICAO, which was to promote the safe and orderly development of civil aviation, depended very much on coordination with ITU, as the availability of suitable frequencies was crucial for safe and effective aircraft operation. The ITU Plenipotentiary Conference (Busan, 2014) had rightly stressed the urgent nature of such issues, which would be considered under a number of conference agenda items, particularly the question of the ability and determination to investigate accidents and learn from them, which was borne out by the joint efforts of ITU and ICAO to determine the factors that had led to the disappearance of Malaysia Airlines flight 370. He therefore wished the conference every success in its work.

# 14 Allocation of documents to committees (Document DT/3)

14.1 The Secretary of the Plenary introduced Document DT/3, which allocated contributions received up to 29 October among the committees in accordance with the terms of reference attributed to them in Document DT/2, on the understanding that contributions received after that date would be allocated in accordance with General Rule No. 82.

14.2 Responding to a request from the **delegate of the Islamic Republic of Iran** for clarification regarding certain documents which in his view did not belong under item 9.2, the **Chairman** said that it had been noted that certain proposals concerning footnote 5.526 and the examination of earth stations on mobile platforms, submitted under WRC-15 agenda item 9.2, had been interpreted as being outside the scope of that agenda item. In view of the importance of the issue and of the fact that it had been generally agreed that such proposals should be considered by WRC-15, he proposed that the plenary, where appropriate, agree to allocate them to Committee 5 for examination, without making that a precedent.

14.3 It was so **agreed**.

14.4 The **Chairman** thanked the delegate of the Islamic Republic of Iran for contributing to finding the solution in question.

# 15 Report of the Director on ITU-R activities (Documents 4 and Addenda 1 to 7, and 5)

15.1 The **Director of BR** briefly presented the addenda to Document 4, some of which had been revised, and Document 5, noting that Addendum 7 to Document 4 presented the results of the work of Study Group 7 and had been examined and approved by the Radiocommunication Assembly. All the documents in question would be presented and examined in greater detail in the relevant committees.

15.2 Document 4 and its addenda, and Document 5, were **noted**, on the understanding that all the documents in question would be transmitted to the relevant committees for consideration.

# 16 Date by which the Credentials Committee must submit its conclusions (Document 2)

16.1 The **Secretary of the Plenary** recalled that, in accordance with No. 334 of the Convention, and as had been customary practice in previous conferences, it was for the Plenary to decide on the date by which the Credentials Committee must submit its conclusions. The secretariat proposed to follow the same procedure and to set the date by which the final report of the Credentials Committee must be submitted to the Plenary at Wednesday, 18 November 2015.

16.2 It was so **agreed**.

# 17 Conference documents and working hours

17.1 The **Secretary of the Plenary** said that, as had been agreed at the meeting of Heads of Delegation and in accordance with the decisions of the Plenipotentiary Conference, documents received as contributions to the work of WRC‑15 were available to the public. Access to documents produced by the conference would, however, be restricted to those with TIES accounts, and only final conference documents would be freely available to the public. Furthermore, in accordance with Decision 5 (Rev. Busan, 2014), WRC-15 was a “paperless” conference and documents were therefore made available in electronic form only, for which ITU had developed tools to facilitate access and management. The meeting of Heads of Delegation had also proposed that the conference adopt the following working hours: 0900-1200 hours and 1400-1700 hours, except for Friday afternoons, when the working hours would be 1430-1730 hours. If evening meetings were required, the working hours would normally be 1900-2200 hours. The Steering Committee, which would be meeting that same day, would examine and publish the schedule of meetings.

17.2 The **delegate of the Islamic Republic of Iran** said that the Steering Committee had to plan the work well so as to avoid long evening meetings, ensuring especially that no evening meeting went on beyond midnight.

17.3 The working hours proposed by the meeting of Heads of Delegation were **approved**.

# 18 General Rules of conferences (Document 18)

18.1 The **Secretary of the Plenary** invited participants to bear in mind the General Rules of conferences, assemblies and meetings of the Union adopted by the Plenipotentiary Conference (Busan, 2014), and to adhere to them, in particular those set out in Document 18.

18.2 Document 18 was **noted**.

**The meeting rose at 1245 hours.**

The Secretary-General: The Chairman:

H. ZHAO F. Y. N. DAUDU

**Annexes**: 3

Original : English

ANNEX A

Address by the Chairman of the Conference

Your Excellency, the ITU Secretary-General, Mr Houlin Zhao,

The ITU Deputy Secretary-General, Mr Malcolm Johnson,

The Director of the Radiocommunication Bureau, Mr François Rancy,

The Director of the Telecommunication Standardization Bureau, Mr Chaesub Lee,

The Director of the Telecommunication Development Bureau, Mr Brahima Sanou,

Your Excellencies all Ministers and Ambassadors present here today,

Members of the UN bodies and all invited guests and observers,

Distinguished Delegates,

Gentlemen of the Press,

Ladies and Gentlemen,

1 Please permit me to first of all start by thanking the Almighty God for making it possible for me to be alive today and to be the first African to Chair a WRC in the 150-year history of the ITU’s existence. Let all glory, honour and adoration be ascribed unto Him alone.

2 I would like to use this medium to congratulate our friends from New Zealand for their victory at the recently concluded 2015 Rugby World Cup. It is indeed a pleasure to see the spirit with which the rugby cup has been won. The spirit of collaboration throughout the tournament is a shining example for us to follow and I have no doubt this spirit will be flying in this room for all these coming four weeks and beyond.

3 I would also like to thank the Government of the Federal Republic of Nigeria for accepting to put forward my name for this noble and great assignment. I therefore bring greetings to you all from the Government and People of the Federal Republic of Nigeria and in particular from the Nigeria delegation present at this conference.

4 I would like to express to all of you my sincere appreciation for the confidence you have shown in me by designating me as Chairman of this great conference. It is an honour not only for me, but also for my country Nigeria and Africa as a whole to accept this mandate, which is granted for the first time to an African country. I can assure you that I will do my utmost to meet your expectations and fulfil the mandate you have entrusted me with. In selecting me to chair this WRC, you have placed your confidence in me to manage the proceedings efficiently with complete fairness and impartiality. Be totally assured, I take these responsibilities very seriously.

5 Your Excellencies, Distinguished Delegates, Ladies and Gentlemen, the World Radiocommunication Conference is one of the most important conferences of the Union. The conference is mandated to examine issues that are at the core of everybody’s life in this our present day, as more and more devices and services are requiring the use of radio frequencies to operate and communicate with each other. We will be examining a large number of important and sensitive issues, ranging from mobile broadband communications and broadband satellite systems to emergency communications and disaster relief, including issues related to maritime and aeronautical communications, monitoring the environment and climate change, universal time and space research, among others.

6 You will all agree with me that, as new technological innovations and applications continue to emerge, we discover new ways to make more effective uses of previously allocated spectrum resources, but also new possible uses of spectrum in previously non-allocated blocks and bands. Although these developments set new challenges for us, especially in terms of spectrum allocation and harmonization, they most certainly also bring new opportunities for billions more around the world to have access to voice and data services. It is my view that as we collectively focus on these new opportunities at this WRC-15, we should be mindful of the opportunities and benefits of old.

7 This conference will also be dealing with issues covering a wide frequency range and concerning a wide variety of radiocommunication services that the public relies on for such essentials as health, information, education, security and safety. The agenda we have before us is a daunting challenge. The sheer size of the agenda – over 80 agenda items – makes it imperative that we work with unprecedented efficiency. It will test all of our skills in being able to consider approximately the several hundred individual proposals from Member States and regional groupings within less than 4 weeks to reach conclusions and decide on Final Acts to reflect those conclusions.

8 Your Excellencies, Distinguished Delegates, Ladies and Gentlemen, I am confident and optimistic that we will be able to consider all these matters during this conference thanks to the good work carried out during the past four years by ITU-R’s various Study Groups and Working parties. I would like to recognize the contribution of Study Group and Working Parties Chairmen as well as those who have participated and contributed to their work. My gratitude also goes to the staff of the Radiocommunication Bureau and in particular to its Director, Mr François Rancy, who shared his significant expertise and provided the necessary support to ensure the success of this preparatory work. I congratulate my Elder Brother and friend Mr Aboubakar Zourmba who has had the difficult task of chairing the Conference Preparatory Meeting and was able to prepare a foundation document which provided the various methods for addressing the WRC-15 agenda items, which have helped us to prepare ourselves for this great conference.

9 I hope that during the coming four weeks we will be working together, benefiting from the experience and knowledge of numerous experts from the participating Member State Administrations, aiming at adopting resolutions that, while serving the interests of the Member States, will contribute to the strengthening of the ITU and its role in helping connecting the world and enhancing the global use of radiocommunication services.

10 The decisions we take here on the Radio Regulations are critical to our Administrations, to much of the telecommunication industry and for the many other important uses of the radio frequency spectrum. They will further promote connectivity, directly affect the lives of our citizens and have important economic impacts in each of our countries.

11 Your Excellencies, Distinguished Delegates, Ladies and Gentlemen, I am aware that a lot of preparatory meetings had been held at national, sub-regional and regional levels, which ended up with an inter-regional workshop. These preparatory meetings provided the needed platform for cross-fertilization and sharing of ideas and experiences and facilitated our preparation for this great event. However, I am pleased to note that consensus on a significant number of issues has already been developed as a result of those preparatory processes. I would like to use this opportunity to urge all delegations not to allow the gains of these preparatory works to go down the drain but to use that as stepping stone towards achieving and arriving at greater consensus and compromises that will be beneficial to all. I expect the result of this conference to be an all win-win affair. I also want to urge all services to consider each other as complementary and not as rivals. Let each service put itself in the other service’s position and assume it were in that service’s shoes. Doing that will create a better and conducive atmosphere for consultations, negotiations and arriving at much better consensus and compromises without anyone feeling bad or cheated.

12 I am counting on your support and cooperation to achieve the goals and objectives of this conference. I am open to suggestions from any of you at any time during the conference as this is also going to be a great learning process for me. Doing all this, will go a long way to help advance our deliberations and achieve consensus and compromises that ITU is always known for.

13 In order to make the progress required, delegations will have to work in a spirit of cooperation and compromise. I would prefer that, to the extent possible, we work by consensus, and, in my capacity as Chairman I will encourage each Committee Chairman to resolve all issues within their respective Committees.

14 Before concluding, Your Excellencies, Distinguished Delegates, Ladies and Gentlemen, I would like to renew my gratitude to all of you for the confidence you have placed on me. I wish to reiterate that I count on your cooperation and continued maximum support in this opportunity to ensure that the conference takes place in a climate of mutual respect, understanding and constructive exchange of ideas, as we advance in the discussion on the important issues that we have before us. Together, I believe, we will take effective decisions in the tradition of the ITU.

15 I have to once again thank all the African Administrations and ATU for collectively putting my name forward for this noble assignment and I thank my country Nigeria for giving me this unique opportunity to serve the global community.

16 I must before closing place my special thanks to one individual who has been a professional colleague for several years now. He has nurtured me professionally and given me very useful advice from time to time. He encouraged me to be a leader and I am very proud of him, he is Engr Shola Taylor who is now the new Secretary-General of the Commonwealth Telecommunications Organisation. I salute you Mr Taylor.

Original : English

ANNEX B

Address by the Secretary-General

Excellencies,
Distinguished colleagues,
Ladies and gentlemen,

• It is a great pleasure and a privilege to address you this morning at this opening of the 2015 World Radiocommunication Conference.

• WRC-15 – like the Radiocommunication Assembly last week – represents an important landmark in the life of ITU’s Radiocommunication Sector.

• As you know, World Radiocommunication Conferences are responsible for updating the [Radio Regulations](http://www.itu.int/pub/R-REG-RR/en), the international treaty governing the use of the radio-frequency spectrum and the geostationary-satellite and non-geostationary-satellite orbits.

• The preparation for WRC-15, which started nearly 4 years ago, has seen an increasing participation of the ITU-R membership that resulted in thousands of pages of ITU-R Recommendations and Reports developed and approved to address all the required technical and regulatory issues on the WRC-15 Agenda. Of course we are running a paperless conference. We are not pressuring you with these hundreds of pages in paper copy. They are all available on line.

• There are around 40 topics on the WRC-15 agenda. Some of the main issues to be discussed at the conference will be:

– The provision of additional frequencies to meet the rapidly growing demand for mobile broadband communications.

– The allocation of frequencies for advanced broadband public protection and disaster relief (PPDR).

– New allocations for earth-exploration satellite services with higher resolution radar imagery for improved global environmental and climate change monitoring.

– Spectrum for the aeronautical sector, related to the use of unmanned aircraft systems (UAS), and wireless avionics intra-communications (WAIC).

– The consideration of spectrum for Global Flight Tracking for Civil Aviation, following the decision of the last Plenipotentiary Conference of the ITU held in Busan last year.

– Enhanced maritime communications systems, to facilitate the use of on-board digital transmissions and automatic identification system on vessels for improved navigation safety.

– The allocation of frequencies for short range, high-resolution radars for collision avoidance systems in vehicles for increased road safety.

– Allocation of spectrum for broadband satellite systems, providing for earth stations on-board moving platforms, such as vessels, and improving coordination procedures to make more efficient use of spectrum and satellite orbits.

– Examining the feasibility of achieving a continuous reference time-scale, by modifying Coordinated Universal Time (UTC).

Ladies and gentlemen,

• We can see that this conference will address important topics that are of crucial relevance to governments, industry and individuals all over the world.

• We have prepared a special edition of the ITU News magazine on WRC-15, to help inform the ITU community as well as members of the public on the main issues at stake here, and on the potential impact of the Conference's decisions.

Distinguished colleagues,

• Let me congratulate Mr Festus Daudu for his nomination as Chairman of WRC-15, as well as the Vice-Chairmen. Mr Daudu, I have every confidence in your abilities to ensure a smooth and efficient running of the conference over the four coming weeks. I would also like to take this opportunity to express my high appreciation of my colleagues, Mr François Rancy, Director of the Radiocommunication Bureau, and his staff for the excellent work in the preparation of WRC-15. Of course, I also express my appreciation to the staff of the other ITU services engaged in this preparation.

Ladies and gentlemen,

• In conclusion, WRC-15 will define new and better ways to regulate radio services and applications. In a world where radiocommunications are playing a more and more important role in connecting people, I am convinced that the outcome of the conference will represent a major contribution in making the world a better place for all.

• I wish you a very productive and successful WRC-15.

Original : English

ANNEX C

Address by the Director of the Radiocommunication Bureau

Mr Chairman,

Mr Secretary-General,
Deputy Secretary-General, fellow Directors of TSB and BDT,

Excellencies,

Distinguished delegates,

Ladies and gentlemen,

It is my great honour and pleasure to welcome you to the 2015 World Radiocommunication Conference. WRC-15 is being held as we celebrate the 150th Anniversary of the ITU and in one year from now, on 30 October 2016, we will be celebrating the 110th anniversary of the Radio Regulations.

The role of WRCs in updating the international regulations on the use of spectrum, is the first pillar of our sector, together with the development of worldwide standards and best practices on the use of spectrum, the dissemination and application of these regulations and standards, and assistance to ITU membership in this application.

The importance of this event is underlined by the growing number of its participants: as of today, 3800 representing 162 Members States and 130 international organizations and Sectors members worldwide.

Let me also mention that, on 13 February 2016, the World Radio Day will address “Radio in disaster and crisis situation”, a topic which is closely related to your work during this conference.

Distinguished colleagues,

As you all know, world radiocommunication conferences, as the supreme body of the Radiocommunication Sector, have the task of updating and improving the Radio Regulations, taking into account the evolution of technologies and practices, and the need to ensure continued protection for all services.

To illustrate how the work ahead during this WRC might impact on the people’s life around the planet, I would like to mention some numbers, at worldwide scale (in 2014), related to Telecommunications services using radio frequencies:

– More than 7 billion of mobile subscriptions, and more than 50% of them serviced by mobile broadband networks

– More than 500 million of households receiving TV programmes through terrestrial Broadcasting, with about 40% benefiting in digital form

– More than 350 million of home dishes connected to satellite networks offering TV and broadband services.

All these services are experiencing very high growth rates, and to provide them, frequency allocations are a major enabler.

These impressive numbers require huge investments in networks, equipment and terminals to accommodate a growing number of users and applications. In 2014,

– Mobile Industry revenues reached USD 1,200 billion, while spending about USD 230 billion only in capital expenditure

– Space industry revenue exceeded USD 200 billion, while spending about USD 80 billion to build and launch satellites and associated ground equipment (39%)

– TV advertising revenues exceeded USD 200 billion.

Spectrum is also used for many other purposes, commercial or non-commercial, which ensure air, ground and maritime transportation, protection of persons, monitoring of Earth resources, prediction of weather, understanding and mitigating climate change. These also rely on spectrum and need more of it.

All these industries are making huge investments in radiocommunication systems, with lifetimes often exceeding 15 years. They need stable conditions during that term, to secure these investments and the essential services they provide to billions of people throughout the world.

Your role, in representing the spectrum community at this conference, will be to ensure that these investments will continue to be made and protected while taking full advantage of the best technologies that are and will become available.

Three days ago, the 2015 Radiocommunication Assembly very successfully completed its work, in adopting a number of key resolutions and recommendations which will considerably assist the membership in developing worldwide standards and best practices on the use of spectrum. These decisions will also be very helpful for this conference, as well as for the preparation of WRC-19. The “smiling consensus” which prevailed during RA-15 is certainly a very good basis for WRC-15 to speedily and harmoniously address its agenda this month.

During the last four years, the RRB has worked very successfully to ensure that the Radio Regulations and past WRC decisions are applied in the full spirit of the ITU. The result of this work on a number of issues is communicated to this conference and the RRB members will, I am sure, be very active in assisting the conference as it needs.

Since WRC-12, the Radiocommunication Bureau has also been very active, notably:

• In ensuring that the Radio Regulations and the decisions of past WRCs are fully and timely implemented

• In facilitating the preparations in the study groups and the CPM, as well as in the regional activities, which have been undertaken under the leadership of the regional groups, which will no doubt be the major contributor to the success of this conference

• In informing and assisting the membership on spectrum management, in particular by organizing worldwide and regional radiocommunication seminars, which enabled to reach 50 more countries over the last five years

• In closely cooperating with the international and regional organizations, with the ITU-R membership as a whole and with the other ITU sectors.

All these topics are addressed in my report to the conference. I would also like to mention the issue of Global Flight Tracking for Civil Aviation, an issue which was added to the Agenda of this conference by the Busan 2014 Plenipotentiary conference and for which the results of the studies undertaken by the ITU-R are also included in my report. I am confident that the conference will provide a timely and positive response to the wish of the international community to ensure a satisfactory solution to this very important issue.

Before I conclude, let me congratulate Mr Festus Daudu for his designation as Chairman of WRC‑15, as well all Vice-Chairmen. I have worked with him for many years and I have every confidence that he will lead us successfully during these four weeks.

You have ahead of you a task of major importance. Please be assured that the ITU staff is ready to provide you with all the necessary assistance to support your work. I wish you a very successful WRC-15 and a pleasant stay in Geneva.

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