

Remarks by François Rancy, Director of the ITU Radiocommunication Bureau, delivered on 16 January 2012, at the ITU Radiocommunication Assembly 2012 (RA-12) Opening Ceremony in Geneva, Switzerland

Remarks by the BR Director at RA-12 Opening Ceremony

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

It is a pleasure and an honour for me to address the 2012 Radiocommunication Assembly. Firstly I would like to welcome you to Geneva. I hope that you have experienced a warm reception upon your arrival here and find that the facilities provided during the Assembly meet your expectations.

The Radiocommunication Assembly heralds the end of a study period and the start of a new one.

I would like to pay tribute to the chairmen and vice-chairmen of the ITU-R study groups and working parties, who provided full support to the tremendous work accomplished by the Radiocommunication Sector over the last four years. As an illustration of the importance of this work and its international recognition for worldwide harmonisation, I would like to mention the recent EMMY Award given to Study Group 6 for Recommendation BS. 1770 on loudness metering and express my appreciation to the awardees. It is a subject of pride for the Sector to be able to bring the best experts together to achieve excellence.

As you know, last year also brought sad news, Mr. Kisrawi passing away at the end of January. This is a big loss for all of us. In recognition for his outstanding contribution to our Union, an ITU gold medal was awarded to him.

This Assembly represents a point of transition in the life of the Sector and thereby provides a unique occasion to review what has been achieved, to look ahead to what needs to be done, and to define the structure in which this shall be undertaken. In essence, this describes the work ahead of us for the next five days.

You will have an opportunity to review the instruments upon which the Study Groups 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 constraints which may so easily delay the progress in the studies.

Once the overall study group structure has been adopted, you will have the delicate task of electing chairmen and vice-chairmen to the Study Groups and to the other ITU-R Groups such as the RAG, CPM and SC. In doing so, due attention will need to be taken of the guidelines laid down in Resolution ITU-R 15, as revised in light of Resolution 166 (Guadalajara, 2010) and recent discussions in the RAG correspondence group on this topic. In summary, I look forward to seeing a fruitful outcome to the topic in a new version of Resolution ITU-R 4 later in the week.

At this Assembly, you will also have to consider a number of draft Resolutions, Recommendations and Questions 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, which would be a clear demonstration of the continuing strength of the Sector.

There will also be the opportunity to address and focus radiocommunication studies on some of the broader, overarching themes highlighted at the Plenipotentiary Conference 2010, such as broadband,

green ICT and conformance and interoperability, in close cooperation with the other Sectors activities on these issues.

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 approached 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 goodwill that prevails at events such as these, together with the sound leadership of your chairman, we can look forward to a rewarding Assembly and to a fruitful outcome on Friday.
