

World Radiocommunication Conference 2015 (WRC-15)

Opening remarks

Mr. François Rancy

Director, Radiocommunication Bureau

2nd November 2015 – 11:00 – CICG

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 3 November 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, the 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 13th 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 programs 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 1,200 Billion USD, while spending about 230 USD billions only in capital expenditure
- Space Industry revenue exceeded 200 Billion USD, while spending about 80 USD billions to build and launch satellites and associated ground equipment (39%)
- TV advertising revenues exceeded 200 Billion USD.

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.

Ladies and gentlemen,

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.

Thank you.