

World Radiocommunication Conference 2015 (WRC-15)

Closing remarks

Mr. François Rancy

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Excellencies Ministers, Heads of Regulators and Ambassadors,
Mr Secretary-General,
Mr Director, TSB
Distinguished Delegates,
Dear Colleagues and Friends,

It is a pleasure to be addressing you at the end of this memorable World Radiocommunication Conference.

A great deal has been achieved in these four weeks and the results of your work in bringing consensus to over 40 agenda items will certainly have a major impact on the future of the telecommunication sector in general and on radiocommunications in particular.

Your decisions will contribute to maintaining a stable, predictable and universally applied regulatory environment that will secure long-term investments for the multi-trillion dollar ICT industry without disrupting the services currently provided to the worldwide population universally. They will change the lives of people around the world.

These decisions are captured in WRC-15 Final Acts, that will soon be published. What a gift to reach this successful outcome as we celebrate the 150th anniversary of our Union! This publication will be followed, in the course of 2016, by the updated ITU Radio Regulations, as we'll celebrate the 110th anniversary of the ITU Radio Regulations.

Let us look at some of your key achievements over the past four weeks:

- WRC-15 allocated and identified for IMT globally harmonized bands in the UHF, L and C-bands for the development of mobile broadband on a worldwide scale, while fully protecting the other services currently operated in these bands. This decision paves the way for the offering of mobile broadband at an affordable price in currently underserved areas and for bringing significant additional resources in areas where demand is already very high.
- Agreement was reached on the allocation of radio-frequency spectrum for global flight tracking in civil aviation for improved safety. This was achieved in record time to meet the expectations of the global community.
- Also concerning the aeronautical sector, WRC-15 opened the way for the development by ICAO of worldwide standards for unmanned aircraft systems (UAS), and identified the regulatory conditions that may be applied to such systems internationally. WRC-15 also agreed on spectrum for wireless avionics intra-communications.

- WRC-15 also took decisions that will improve the quality and safety of automotive and maritime transports and, through earth stations in motion, will pave the way to provide global broadband connectivity for the transportation community.
- WRC-15 also concluded on the future reference time-scale, including the modification of coordinated universal time (UTC), by seeking more widely the views of international organizations, industry and user groups on this issue.
- By identifying harmonized spectrum at 694-894 MHz, WRC-15 enables mobile broadband communications for robust and reliable mission-critical emergency services for public protection and disaster relief.
- New allocations have been made for Earth-exploration satellite services with higher resolution radar imagery for improved global monitoring of the environment and climate.

Whilst I could mention several other notable achievements, let me congratulate you all as you have once again, together, successfully reached by consensus all your decisions in the true tradition of this 'marathon'!

I also would like to praise the remarkable skills of our Chairman in bringing this event to such a successful conclusion. Mr Festus Daudu's efficiency and masterly guidance of the proceedings of this conference have been outstanding and I can only express my

admiration and gratitude for his untiring action throughout this event. We wish Mr Daudu continued success in the future. Thank you very much Mr Chairman.

I would like to conclude by also thanking the Conference Vice-Chairs, the Committees', Chairs and Vice-Chairs, the Working groups, sub-working groups and ad-Hoc groups chairs, the RRB members, the delegates, and the ITU staff who have shown excellence and dedication during these 25 days (and sometimes nights) of hard work.

Let me also thank the Swiss Administration for hosting this major event in this CICG building which is so remarkably optimized for our work.

The Radiocommunication Bureau will continue as always to assist all Administrations in implementing the provisions of this international treaty which governs the use of radiocommunications throughout the world - the ITU Radio Regulations.

In concluding, Excellencies, Distinguished Delegates, Ladies and Gentlemen, I would like to thank all of you again for your support in helping to bring the 2015 World Radiocommunication Conference to a successful conclusion. I wish you a safe trip back home a very happy holiday season.