

ITU International Satellite Symposium 2016

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Distinguished colleagues,
Ladies and gentlemen,

It is a great pleasure to welcome you in Geneva, on behalf of the ITU Secretary General, Mr. Houlin Zhao, to this International Satellite Communication Symposium on “Interference-Free Satellite Frequency Spectrum: Myth or Reality in 2016?”

This symposium is an open event and I am pleased to note the strong participation of national administrations, the satellite communications industry, the user community, other ICT stakeholders, as well as all those with an interest in the topic. Discussions in this symposium are informal and I hope this will allow more innovative ideas to be expressed.

ITU work focuses on ensuring that a stable regulatory and operational framework for the sustainable development of all radiocommunication services, in particular by managing spectrum and orbit resources so that these resources can be used without risk of what we call ‘harmful interference’. This is what permits billions of dollars of new investments to be made every year by the satellite industry.

I would have been happy to say that harmful interference, including malign, intentional interference never happens. Unfortunately, we are still witnessing instances of interference into satellite TV broadcasts, radio-navigation systems or satellite telecommunications services to mobile terminals. Some of these satellite-borne services – such as air navigation for aircraft – have a crucial safety element, meaning that interference becomes a very serious matter.

Such cases of interference are clearly in violation of the ITU Radio Regulations, the international treaty that governs the use of radio frequency spectrum and orbit resources.

Interference knows no boundaries and spectrum/orbit resources are a common good shared between all countries. There is therefore no other means to combat interference than to increase cooperation at international level with careful thinking and innovative approaches in order to ensure that the ITU procedures are respected and applied by all countries at all times.

Your discussions during these two days are therefore of great importance.

The aim of this symposium is to bring together all sectors involved in satellite communications with high quality presentations on the latest developments and innovations in the combat against satellite interference and to interact, share experience, discuss the effectiveness of existing and promising measures in this field.

The Radiocommunication Bureau is re-iterating its commitment in ensuring interference-free operations of satellite applications.

I wish you the best success for this ITU international symposium.