

# **1<sup>ST</sup> ITU INTER-REGIONAL WORKSHOP ON WRC-19 PREPARATION**

09.00, TUESDAY 21 NOVEMBER 2017  
ITU ROOM POPOV, GENEVA, SWITZERLAND

## **WELCOME REMARKS**

**FRANÇOIS RANCY**

**DIRECTOR, RADIOCOMMUNICATION BUREAU**

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Dear Chairmen of the regional groups and organizations,  
Dear Chairman of the CPM,  
Distinguished delegates,  
Ladies and gentlemen,

It is my great honour and pleasure to welcome you in Geneva to this first ITU Inter-regional Workshop on WRC-19 Preparation.

The successful results achieved at recent WRCs, with their busy agendas and difficult issues to resolve, have shown how important are all the opportunities to meet formally and informally, exchange views, provide explanations and ideas for a better preparation of the next Conference.

The present Workshop is one of these opportunities and I am pleased to see all of you here present today and being ready to contribute to this important event.

As you know, the Agenda for WRC-19 is not less complex than that of WRC-15. To guarantee the same level of achievement at the next WRC, we need to continue the trend toward increasing the proportion of common and coordinated proposals, which reached almost 2/3<sup>rd</sup> of the 2900 proposals submitted to that conference.

This process highlights the great spirit of international cooperation that marks the ITU tradition of consensus building. It has proved to be a powerful and increasingly successful mechanism for reaching agreement within and between the various regional groups, as foreseen and encouraged by Resolution 72 (Rev. WRC-07) since 1995.

I am pleased to see that the main regional groups are well represented today at this meeting. I am convinced that the internal reflections and discussions that have already started within each regional group, as well as their long experience in their internal organization and preparation for WRCs, will benefit all of us during this Workshop.

I am also pleased to welcome in the discussions several representatives from various entities such as sister UN agencies, international organizations and others stakeholders. I am sure that they will provide important information to facilitate the understanding and resolution of the topics on WRC-19 agenda.

Your participation to this workshop emphasizes the increasing importance of the WRC process:

- to maintain regulatory certainty for a multi-trillion dollars industry which plays an increasingly important role in the development of our societies
- to achieve economies of scale, roaming and interoperability through global spectrum harmonization.

In so doing, it is essential:

- to establish the technical conditions for the free-interference operation of all the services and
- to provide access to frequency spectrum and orbit resources for new technologies, while protecting existing services and applications.

WRC-19 has many complex issues on its Agenda and I am very much encouraged by the good progress made already within the ITU-R Study Groups and responsible Working Parties and Task Group.

I am confident that under the very competent leadership of their Chairmen, all groups will be able to provide the expected draft CPM texts on time by the end of August next year, which will be an important landmark for the preparation of WRC-19.

During this Workshop today and tomorrow, we will discuss, in particular, the most challenging item on WRC-19 Agenda, the IMT spectrum requirements in a number of frequency bands above 24.25 GHz, which, for some of them, are also be considered for HAPS and for non-GSO FSS systems.

The very active development of IMT 2020 (5G) is putting a lot of pressure on manufacturers and operators to start technology developments and network deployments ahead of WRC-19 decisions. The ITU must be responsive to this situation in order to preserve global harmonization, which is so essential to produce the economies of scale that will benefit all countries for the rapid development of wireless broadband. I am convinced

that the best response is to continue to seek an early consensus on some of the candidate bands if possible prior to or at the second session of CPM-19.

The Radiocommunication Bureau will of course continue to provide the necessary support for the timely completion of the preparatory studies, in particular in relation to Agenda items 2 (incorporation by reference of ITU-R Rec.), 4 (review of WRC Resolutions and Recommendations), 7 (coordination, notification and recording procedures) and 9 (ITU-R activities and any difficulties or inconsistencies encountered in the application of the Radio Regulations). Following recent requests, I intend to submit to ITU-R Study Groups and to the RRB an early version of Director's Report to WRC-19 in the first part of 2018, in order to facilitate the identification of possible solutions to the issues raised in this report.

The BR will also continue to support the efforts by the regional groups and the ITU-R membership to organise workshops for WRC-19 preparation and I would like to thank all those who have helped in this process in order to ease their understanding and to be better prepared for the Conference.

Based on the experience gained in this workshop, we plan similar inter-regional workshops within the next two years, prior to the second session of the CPM, and before WRC-19 itself.

Before I conclude, I would like to call your attention on the Network of Women for WRC-19 initiative which intends to build women's leadership for the upcoming conference. It was launched last December during the World Radiocommunication Seminar, subsequent sessions were organized in the context of ITU-R meetings. Further sessions will be organized within main ITU-R events from now to WRC-19.

I also would like to invite all of you to the celebration of the 90<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the CCIR/ITU-R Study Groups, since your presence here highlights that you are all contributing to this remarkable process.

Mr Chairman, ladies and gentlemen,

Please be assured that all ITU staff will assist you in every way possible during this meeting, and may I offer you all my very best wishes for an enjoyable stay in Geneva and a successful workshop.

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