

**18<sup>th</sup> meeting of the RCC Commission on the Regulation of the Usage of the  
Radio Frequency Spectrum and Satellite Orbits**

*Virtual event*

**4 September 2020**

***Opening Remarks***

**Mario Maniewicz  
Director, Radiocommunication Bureau**

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Mr. Nurudin Mukhitdinov, Director General of the Executive Committee of the Regional Commonwealth in the Field of Communications,

Mr. Valeriy Butenko, Chairman of the RCC Commission on the Regulation of the Usage of the Radio Frequency Spectrum and Satellite Orbits,

Delegates from the Member States,

Ladies and Gentlemen,

It is a great pleasure to address you at the 18th meeting of the RCC Commission on the use of radio frequency spectrum and satellite orbits.

In recent years, regional groups have been playing an increasing role in the promotion of modern radio technologies and the establishment of responsive spectrum regulations. These tasks require extensive international cooperation, which begins at regional and sub-regional levels. Many difficult issues at ITU conferences were decided by representatives of regional groups. Therefore, close cooperation of administrations within the RCC and the Commission responsible for frequency and orbit utilization, is extremely important.

For years, the RCC has provided great regulatory and scientific contribution to the work of ITU and its Radiocommunication Sector. RCC representatives have chaired key ITU-R Study Groups and Working Groups, such as SG 4 on satellite services, SG 1 on spectrum management or TG6/1 on UHF band. Two out of 12 members of the Radio Regulations Board come from your region. The proposals

of RCC administrations at various ITU meetings, including the Council, RAG, and the various Study Groups, contribute constructively to the work of the ITU.

Dear Participants,

The importance of the contribution of the regional groups was evidenced once again at WRC-19. Indeed, an important challenge of this Conference was the allocation of frequency resources for mobile broadband applications, while protecting existing services. The Conference was a huge success. It satisfied spectrum requirements of several broadband technologies, including IMT-2020, HAPS, RLANs, large NGSO satellite networks, and established necessary regulations to protect the incumbent services. These technologies can complement each other towards providing reliable and economical communications for any users in any regions.

Apart from allocating spectrum, WRC-19 also harmonized a number of frequency bands at a global or regional level. The importance of spectrum harmonization grows from one WRC to another and covers an increasing number of applications. Indeed, harmonization makes roaming and interoperability possible. It reduces the cost of equipment. Harmonization enables economies of scale and eventually makes devices affordable for all countries, thus bridging digital divide.

Currently, the administrations of the Member States and the Radiocommunication Bureau are working on the implementation of WRC-19 decisions, which enter into force on 1 January 2020. To leverage from the positive outcomes of WRC-19, Administrations need to update their national frequency allocation tables, and change the related documentation and software. In addition, according to their national priorities, they can consider licencing the newly allocated or identified bands.

The BR is making a similar update of its documents and software, as well as developing new rules of procedure. In April 2020, the Bureau issued the definitive Final Acts of WRC-19 and plans to publish the new edition of the Radio Regulations very soon.

The Bureau is also providing assistance to administrations in the implementation of some important resolutions of the Conference. I am personally following the implementation of Resolution 559, which allows certain countries of Regions 1 and 3 to use the newly available positions at GSO to replace their degraded assignments in the Appendices 30 and 30A Plans for BSS, which may have interference problems. Several RCC members (e.g. Azerbaijan, Georgia and Moldova) have already sent their requests under Resolution 559 and the Bureau is providing support to RCC members in implementing that Resolution.

Preparations to WRC-23 have also been launched at all levels, including the ITU Radiocommunication Sector, regional groups, and international organizations. In this respect, I salute the advanced work of RCC, which is already conducting the 2<sup>nd</sup> meeting of its Working Group on WRC-23 and RA-23.

Dear friends,

All our current activities are going on in a new and challenging environment imposed by COVID-19. This environment has its restrictions due to the absence of physical meetings, face-to-face talks, and discussions during evenings and coffee breaks.

On the other hand, remote meetings also brought some advantages. They gave the opportunity for more people to participate in the discussions. To give you an example, the last Regional Radiocommunication Seminar for the Americas Region this July gathered around 250 participants, while in previous years the average number was about 60.

The ITU-R Study Groups and their Working Parties have been conducting their studies using online platforms for remote participation. This allowed the Study Groups to keep on track with their workplans.

The meetings of the Radio Regulations Board and Radiocommunication Advisory Group were also held virtually for the first time and very successfully, and it is very likely that physical ITU-R meetings will not be resumed till the end of this year. The Bureau is working hard to improve the methods for online discussions, to cope with the problems of different time zones and introduce virtual *offline* discussions to complement formal sessions.

The limitations caused by Covid-19 to the postal and fax services of different countries incentivized the switch to electronic means of communication. In March, ITU suspended the distribution of the physical DVD-ROM with BR's frequency databases and replaced them by electronic publications. With the necessary assistance of the Bureau, the Administrations very rapidly adapted to this new environment and are now taking full advantage of it.

Dear colleagues,

The coordination of the activities of the RCC Administrations on the use of the frequency and orbital resource, and the development of common positions is an important step towards global harmonization.

These difficult tasks are in the hands of your Commission, Mr Chairman. Today's meeting will consider several important outputs of your Working Groups on spectrum management, on preparations to WRC-23 and RA-23 and broadcasting. I am confident that the professionalism of the delegates, their strategic vision and their good friendly relations will allow to successfully solve all the issues.

As for the ITU and its Radiocommunication Bureau, you can rest assured that we are always at your disposal to provide assistance in any radiocommunication matters, and to support the Region throughout the study period in the preparation for WRC-23.

I would like to conclude my speech by thanking the RCC for the opportunity of addressing you today and wish you constructive and fruitful discussions.

Thank you very much.