

2nd CEPT Preparatory Meeting For WRC-23 (CPG23-2)

Virtual event

8 December 2020

Opening Remarks

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Good morning

I would like to start by thanking CEPT for the kind invitation, and in particular the CPG Chairman, Mr. Alexandre KHOLOD, for giving me the opportunity to talk to you today.

Dear Colleagues,

It is a pleasure for me to address you in the opening of this CPG23-2 Virtual Meeting. Of course, I would have preferred to meet you in person here in Switzerland, in the beautiful city of Montreux. But hopefully that will happen in 2021.

One year has passed since the conclusion of WRC-19. And during this year, the work in the BR has continued at full speed, even with all staff working remotely.

- We have published the 2020 Edition of the Radio Regulations, which is available for download from the ITU website.
- A week ago, we published the new Maritime Manual, which has been updated based on 2020 edition of the ITU Radio Regulations.

- We have also released an updated version of a stand-alone software application that provides users with a mechanism to electronically use, query and analyze the Table of Frequency Allocations in Article 5 of the Radio Regulation (2020 Edition).
- We have updated our databases and systems so that by the 1st of January of 2021, when all provisions of the Radio Regulations enter into force, we will be ready to fully implement the decisions of WRC-19.
- And the processing of terrestrial and satellite network filings has continued apace.

The BR has also been organizing a series of virtual capacity-building events and is working to implement the Gender Declaration.

- In that regard, the BR presented two Regional Radiocommunication Seminars:
 - The Regional Radiocommunication Seminar 2020 for the Americas Region (RRS-20-Americas), which was held virtually from 13 to 24 July in collaboration with the Caribbean Telecommunications Union (CTU).
 - The Regional Radiocommunication Seminar 2020 for the Asia-Pacific Region (RRS-20-Asia-Pacific) that was held virtually from 19 to 30 October.
- The BR also organized three Satellite webinars, covering non-geostationary satellite systems for the provision of broadband service, innovations in geostationary satellite systems, as well as the role of the ITU to prevent and mitigate interference.
- The World Radiocommunication Seminar 2020 is taking place right now, with over 1,300 people registered. I hope you have the opportunity to catch up with the satellite and terrestrial workshops that are being delivered this week at a later point in

time, as the event is being recorded and will be available on the ITU website.

- And we have launched the Network of Women for WRC-23 that aims at promoting gender equality, equity and parity. I thank CEPT for nominating Ms. Amela Hatibovic from Sweden as the Regional Co-Chair, and I would like to invite all of you to participate in the programme.

In addition to the work of the BR, the ITU-R study groups have also continued working using remote participation tools.

- Studies on all WRC-23 Agenda Items have started based on contributions from Membership.
- Coordination among study groups to identify the necessary elements of different radio services, for example the protection criteria, is taking place, via exchange of Liaison Statements.
- And we have adjusted our meetings and calendar to keep the studies on track and meet the previously defined schedules while working remotely. In that regard, some of the ITU-R Working Parties adjusted their schedules to better accommodate the needs of a global audience, including extending the number of days and shorten the number of hours per day of their meetings. It is worth noting that participation in all ITU-R meetings and events is significantly larger since they have been moved online.
- Lastly, I am very pleased to say that the ITU-R completed, within the planned timeframe, the detailed specifications of the terrestrial radio interfaces of IMT-2020. The Draft new Recommendation ITU-R M. IMT 2020 Specifications is now being sent to Member States for approval. I would like to thank those of the CEPT Region that contributed to this success.

Dear friends,

As you can see, albeit the challenges imposed by working and meeting remotely, the work of the ITU-R has continued, and we have accomplished so much!

We are now reaching the end of this first year of the study cycle and we are confident that the studies will continue advancing as planned.

I recognize the challenges that virtual meetings pose, but I am sure that – in a similar way as we have adapted in so many aspects of our lives – we will also adapt to this new meeting environment.

In the ITU we are fully committed to keeping the work toward the WRC-23 on track and to hold the Conference on schedule.

I know that some of you are concerned by the impact of an extended virtual environment in the advance of the studies. However, we are at a very early stage in the preparatory process and I would consider it a bit premature to start talking now about a possible postponement of the conference. Instead, I would propose that we reassess the situation in light of the possibilities (or not) to go back to a normal meeting environment in the course of 2021.

As you know, services and industries rely on our work and on the regulatory certainty provided by the Radio Regulations for their development. So, let us move forward and continue to work together without distraction to ensure efficient and effective preparations for WRC-23.

When I look into the work of CEPT, I notice the advancements you have already made in this short time to define preliminary CEPT positions for several agenda items of relevance to the Region, as it is the case for:

- Agenda item 1.8, on the use of fixed satellite service networks by control and non-payload communications of unmanned aircraft systems.
- Agenda item 1.11, on the modernization of the Global Maritime Distress and Safety System.
- Agenda item 1.13, on the upgrade of space research service.
- On both agenda items on ESIMs (AI 1.15 and 1.16),
- Agenda Item 1.19, supporting a new FSS allocation in Region 2 aligned with the allocation of Region 1.
- Agenda Item 9.1, topic b, on amateur services and the protection of RNSS.
- Agenda Item 9.1, topic c, on fixed wireless broadband,

just to name a few.

Dear colleagues,

The work of the Regional groups in conducting studies and consolidating common proposals is fundamental for the preparation of the World Radiocommunication Conference.

And the cooperation between Regional groups has shown to be crucial in solving contentious matters. This cooperation has happened in conferences in the past, we saw it again during WRC-19, and it will continue to be of major importance to the WRC-23.

Looking forward, we are planning to hold the 1st ITU Inter-regional Workshop on WRC-23 Preparation by the end of 2021. And we will have the second session of the Conference Preparatory Meeting (CPM23-2) during the second quarter of 2023, with the deadline for the draft CPM Report being a minimum of 2 months before the meeting takes place.

Dear friends,

I count on you to continue actively participating in the ITU-R meetings and conferences and contributing as Administrations and as a Region. And I assure you that the BR will continue to be at your disposal to support your preparation towards WRC-23.

I wish you successful deliberations and I hope to see you in person, very soon.

Thank you very much.