

## **2<sup>nd</sup> Meeting of the APT Conference Preparatory Group for WRC (APG)**

*Virtual event*

**19 April 2021**

### ***Opening Speech***

**Mario Maniewicz**  
**Director, Radiocommunication Bureau**

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Mr. Masanori Kondo, Secretary General of APT,  
Dr. K. J. Wee, Chairman of APG-23,  
Vice-chairs and Special Senior Adviser of APG-23,  
Ladies and gentlemen,  
Good morning, good afternoon, and good evening to all participants.

I would like to thank the Asia Pacific Telecommunity, for inviting the Radiocommunications Bureau to participate in the 2<sup>nd</sup> Meeting of the APG for WRC-23 and for inviting me personally to give some opening remarks in this plenary session. It is a pleasure for me to address you today.

Firstly, let me start by recognizing the valuable contribution of APT in supporting the work of the ITU-R and the important role you play in conducting the Regional preparations for both WRC-23 and RA-23.

Each step of the preparatory process has a unique value. The current work on common preliminary views and the development of studies will be followed by the consolidation of regional positions and the cooperation among regional groups. All steps are fundamental to the success of the next World Radiocommunication Conference.

I also want to thank you for nominating a Regional Co-Chair to support the Network of women for WRC-23. This important initiative aims at increasing the participation of women in leadership roles in the ITU-R. I am confident that the nomination of chairmen of drafting groups in the APT will also take into account the Gender Declaration adopted at WRC-19.

Dear colleagues,

A few weeks ago, marked one year since all our meetings and events went virtual. During this time, the ITU has made full use of the available technological resources to ensure ITU's core functions and services to members were maintained.

As we move forward in this new 4 year-cycle, the work of the ITU-R Study Groups and their Working Parties is progressing well. And I am also pleased to note the advance made on the development of important draft new and revised Recommendations and Reports.

By the middle of the year, the characteristics and parameters of service and applications will be provided. And learning from previous cycles, we know how relevant it is for countries and Regions to use these parameters in order to conduct sharing and compatibility studies. That will then feed the development the draft CPM text.

I recognize the challenges that virtual meetings pose. But in a similar way that we adapted in so many aspects of our lives, we are also adapting to this new meeting environment.

We are continuously striving to make virtual meetings as productive as possible and finding ways of enabling more offline discussions and progress between meetings.

Responding to discussions from the last RAG meeting, I am very pleased to confirm that we have recently restored the meetings of Chairmen and Vice-Chairmen of the Radiocommunication Study Groups and Working Parties, or CVC meeting, as we call it for short. I believe that restoring the group of ITU-R leadership will help the work of the study groups to progress smoothly.

As you can see, we are fully committed to keeping the work toward the WRC-23 on track and holding the Conference on schedule.

I am confident that with your support and with your spirit of collaboration, the WRC process will continue advancing as planned – even in virtual meetings, and even for those agenda items that by nature are more contentious.

We all recognize that services and industries rely on our work and on the regulatory certainty provided by the Radio Regulations for their development. And postponing the WRC will be of no benefit.

Let us concentrate our efforts and continue working together without delay or distraction to ensure efficient and effective preparations for WRC-23.

We have reasons to be optimistic with multiple vaccines being rolled out. So, we are looking forward to holding physical meetings again, seeing you all in person very soon, and being together in the United Arab Emirates to hold the WRC in the last quarter of 2023.

Dear friends,

If we were living in a normal situation, I would tell you that the door of my office is always open. Now in this virtual setting, I assure you that I can be equality reached by an email or a phone call.

I am available to support you throughout the study cycle. So, feel free to contact me if you need my support.

Since this region has some of the most experienced delegates attending ITU meetings and, at the same time, also some of our newest delegates, I invite you to bring forward your ideas and suggestions to ameliorate the process towards WRC-23 as well as the decision-making process during the conference itself.

I am counting on you and please also count on me along the path to WRC-23.

With this Mr. Chairman, I conclude by wishing you a productive meeting and fruitful deliberations.

Thank you very much.