

Online Capacity Building and Training Workshop on Licensing, Spectrum Management, and Space Sustainability for Non-Geostationary Satellite Networks

Recorded Opening Remarks

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Excellencies,

Distinguished ministers and senior officials,

Esteemed colleagues from administrations, industry and international organizations,

Ladies and gentlemen,

I am pleased to address you at the opening of this Online Capacity Building and Training Workshop on Non-Geostationary Orbit satellite networks. Allow me, at the outset, to thank the African Telecommunications Union (ATU) for its initiative and leadership, and to acknowledge Amazon and the United Nations Office for Outer Space Affairs (UNOOSA) for their collaboration in making this event possible and fruitful.

Over the next five days, this workshop will bring together high-level policymakers as well as technical and regulatory officials from across the continent for two complementary modules: today, a strategic, executive-level session, followed during the rest of the week by in-depth regulatory and technical sessions. This structure was designed to provide both a clear policy overview and a practical grounding in the rules and processes that govern spectrum management of non-geostationary satellite systems.

The timing and focus of this workshop are especially pertinent. As you all know, non-geostationary constellations are reshaping the global connectivity landscape, offering new possibilities to connect unserved and underserved communities. Realizing these opportunities sustainably requires coherent national policies aligned with international frameworks, sound licensing regimes, and effective spectrum management, all underpinned by cooperation among administrations, industry and international bodies.

From the ITU Radiocommunication Bureau's perspective, three themes in your agenda merit particular emphasis:

1. **Spectrum management and coordination:** Efficient use of spectrum, a shared, finite resource, requires careful application of the ITU Radio Regulations, including the relevant technical and operational constraints relevant for satellite systems. Frequency coordination and notification procedures are central to ensuring that non-geostationary satellite systems can operate without causing harmful interference.
2. **Regulatory coherence and licensing:** National licensing approaches benefit when they are aligned with the Radio Regulations and informed by outcomes of past and upcoming World Radiocommunication Conferences. Building capacity to translate international provisions into clear, fair, and technology-neutral national frameworks will help accelerate deployment while safeguarding both the public interest and open competition.
3. **Space sustainability:** As the number and complexity of constellations grow, so does our shared responsibility to preserve the long-term sustainability of outer space. Measures related to debris mitigation, collision avoidance, information sharing, demisability, and the protection of dark and quiet skies must be integrated into policy and regulatory choices from the outset. Coordination across national, regional, and international levels is essential to keep space safe, secure and sustainable for future generations.

On behalf of the ITU Radiocommunication Bureau, I wish to underscore our continuous commitment to support ATU and its Member States. In response to the kind invitation of the ATU Secretary General, Mr. John Omo, several experts from the Bureau will provide insights on the ITU regulatory framework, spectrum management, frequency coordination, and non-GSO-related matters in the lead-up to the World Radiocommunication Conference of 2027. We value this opportunity to work alongside ATU, UNOOSA and Amazon to reinforce alignment with global standards and facilitate effective, safe and sustainable non-GSO deployments across Africa.

Advancing digital connectivity is a collective endeavour: by strengthening regulatory capacity, sharpening technical tools, and deepening cooperation, we can ensure that non-GSO systems contribute meaningfully to universal, affordable and sustainable connectivity—consistent with the mission we share.

I wish you a productive week of learning and exchange, and I look forward to our continued collaboration.

Thank you.