

ITU Workshop on National Tables of Frequency Allocation (NTFA) for Region 1

Addis Ababa, Ethiopia

Pre-recorded video message

Opening Remarks

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His Excellency, Mr Belete Molla, Minister of Innovation and Technology (MinT) of Ethiopia,

Mr John Omo, Secretary General, African Telecommunication Union (ATU),

Mr Emmanuel Manasseh, ITU Regional Director for Africa,

Dear Participants, Ladies and Gentlemen

I am delighted to welcome you to this ITU workshop on the National Tables of Frequency Allocation.

First, I would like to thank the Ministry of Innovation and Technology of Ethiopia for hosting this workshop, The African Telecommunication Union (ATU) and the Policy and Regulation Initiative for Digital Africa (PRIDA) for partnering with us.

This is the first in a three-part series of regional workshops organized to assist administrations in developing National Tables of Frequency Allocations.

This workshop forms part of ITU's capacity-building programme aimed at ensuring the efficient and economical use of the radio-frequency spectrum by all radiocommunication services. It complements spectrum management training offered during the World Radiocommunication and Regional Radiocommunication Seminars.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

Establishing and updating National Tables of Frequency Allocations (NTFAs) is the first and one of the most important actions a country takes toward fulfilling its role in the global management of the radio spectrum. NTFAs are detailed documents produced by national regulatory authorities that specify their planned use and how they are allocating spectrum to the various radio services in conformity with their rights and treaty obligations as parties to the international Radio Regulations and consistent with their national priorities. These tables serve as a critical tool for managing the radio spectrum, ensuring its efficient use, and preventing interference between different types of radio communications systems.

The NTFA is therefore a fundamental tool for spectrum management at the national level and should be regularly updated to align with the latest version of the Radio Regulations, particularly its Article 5 (Table of Frequency Allocations). Since radio frequencies do not respect national borders, regulators are well served by regional information sharing, collaboration, and frameworks when developing NTFAs.

As you are aware, the Radio Regulations are revised and updated every four years by the World Radiocommunication Conference.

Your National Tables should equally be updated with the same frequency.

I am informed that some countries are facing challenges when it comes to updating their National Tables of Frequency Allocation. These challenges include limited awareness about the importance of the Tables of Frequency Allocation, lack of qualified and dedicated staff to update and maintain the Tables, limited access to software tools for spectrum management and insufficient awareness of the Radio Regulations.

The training to be provided during this workshop will seek to tackle some of these challenges. There will be tutorials and hands-on training on the various spectrum management and software tools developed by the Radiocommunication Bureau.

Dear participants,

The NTFA is more than just a technical document; it is one of the cornerstones of every country's national telecommunications policy. The rapid pace of technological advancement means that demand for spectrum is continually increasing.

Regular updating of the National Tables of Frequency Allocation is key to ensuring that national spectrum resources are used to efficiently and effectively while avoiding creating harmful interference into the radio systems operated by other countries in accordance with the Radio Regulations. The radio spectrum is our globally shared, limited national resource. It is our Commons that is precious and vital to more and more human endeavours. It underpins all aspects of life, including the safety of our transportation systems, all forms of communications, meteorological forecasting, scientific discovery, and on and on.

I am informed that this workshop attracted over 100 participants from over 40 countries. To facilitate the participation of developing countries, ITU is making available about 30 fellowships.

I hope that, by the end of this training, you will be better positioned to leverage the mechanisms established in the Radio Regulations to improve your spectrum management and ensure the interference-free operation of radiocommunication services.

I wish you a successful workshop.