

29th meeting of the Radiocommunication Advisory Group

RAG 2022

Geneva, Switzerland

Opening Remarks

11 April 2022

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

Mr. Chairman,

Dear participants,

Good morning to all, and welcome back to the ITU Headquarters. It is an absolute pleasure to see all of you in person again after these two years of virtual meetings.

I also welcome those that are joining us remotely, and I hope you can stay with us throughout each day despite the time difference with your respective time zones.

Let me take this opportunity to express my deep appreciation to the Chairman of the Radiocommunication Advisory Group, Mr. Daniel Obam, for his active engagement and wise leadership during this difficult period due to the Covid-19 pandemic.

Dear delegates,

As you recall, in February this year, the RAG convened a one-day meeting where we reviewed the Draft ITU-R Strategic and Financial Plans. That meeting established an Ad Hoc Group that considered more in-depth the Results Framework and the ITU-R indicators. As you'll see in the presentation that will be made this morning, that meeting and the subsequent work of the ad hoc group were very fruitful. Thank you to all those who participated in that review, particularly to Mr. Abdouramane who very ably led the Ad Hoc Group that achieved an excellent outcome in just one session.

The February 24th session of the RAG also considered the planned measures for returning to physical ITU-R meetings with remote participation. I am very pleased to confirm that hereafter all ITU-R study group meetings in 2022 are planned to be physical with remote participation. I am confident that this will help advance the work of the groups, especially with regards to the more controversial issues.

At this twenty-ninth meeting of the Radiocommunication Advisory Group we will continue the consideration of topics under the purview of the RAG. To this end, the BR has submitted a Report to this meeting providing information on council issues, on the activities of the ITU-R Study Groups, the status of development of software, publications and the organization of seminars and workshops.

In March, the Council Working Group on Strategic and Financial Plans, followed by the ITU Council, met physically to review the draft ITU-R Strategic Plan that will be forwarded to the Plenipotentiary Conference for further consideration. The resulting documents reflect the contribution of the RAG and clearly evidences the work of the ITU-R.

Council also considered the ITU-R Operational Plan for 2023 as well as the Budget for the 2022-2023 period, and we will have a short presentation of them during the RAG for your information.

Regarding the work on BR information systems, we acknowledge the request of Administrations to continue improving systems to ensure efficient online submission and publication of satellite network filings. You'll see a presentation on the status of the work in this area later today. Naturally, we have also been working very hard to implement all decisions of WRC-19 related to both terrestrial and space services.

Dear colleagues,

I am delighted to see that both of the RAG Correspondence Groups have been active during the period since the 2021 RAG meeting. It is also very nice that both of our CG Chairs are present here with us and that they will be able to use this opportunity to report on the progress of the work of their groups.

I am pleased to report to you that the ITU-R's efforts to achieve the goal of gender equity, equality, and parity are not waiting for the adoption of a new Gender Resolution by RA-23. As we work towards the next World Radiocommunication Conference (WRC-23), the actions of the ITU-R are already being guided by the Gender Declaration adopted at WRC-19 and the work being done by the Network of Women for WRC23 (NOW4WRC23). We will receive a report on the NOW4WRC23 initiative tomorrow morning, which I am looking forward to seeing.

Finally, the Inter-Sector Coordination Group, led by Mr. Fabio Bigi, will bring to the attention of the RAG the issues of mutual interest, such as the latest developments on machine translation, an option of sharing and accessing documents on intersectoral activities, and the report of their first meeting in 2022.

The goal is to foster greater cooperation as well as better coordination of the Radiocommunications Bureau with the Telecommunication Standardization Sector, the Telecommunication Development Sector, and the General Secretariat.

Mr. Chairman,

I know that I can count on the guidance of the RAG to help progress the work in the ITU-R and I assure you the Radiocommunication Bureau will continue to assist you moving forward.

I look forward to a very productive and successful meeting ahead.