TSAG Meeting

Opening Remarks

26 January 2026

Mario Maniewicz
Director, Radiocommunication Bureau

Mr. Chair,

TSAG Vice-Chairs,

Fellow Elected Officials,

Dear delegates and colleagues,

It is a pleasure to address TSAG at the opening of this meeting, and I thank the Telecommunication Standardisation Bureau for the invitation to be here today.

As you all know, in the broader context of UN80 and the ongoing reforms affecting the United Nations system as a whole, ITU is expected to become more efficient while continuing to deliver on its mandate. This is essential to our ability to serve our Membership in a more targeted and effective manner, ensuring coherence, avoiding duplication, and addressing issues that span Sector mandates.

Allow me to share a few areas where we can find synergies between ITU-R and ITU-T, adapt the way we work, and prioritise more clearly.

I will start by highlighting the ongoing and complementary activities of ITU-R and ITU-T in the area of satellite communications.

Within ITU-R, extensive work is underway in preparation for the World Radiocommunication Conference 2027, addressing a wide range of regulatory, spectrum, and technical issues relevant to radiocommunication services. The WRC-27 agenda consists largely of items related to or affecting satellite and science services, some with unique technical and regulatory complexities.

To give you some examples, Agenda item 1.13 addresses regulatory provisions and possible new allocations to support direct-to-device (D2D) connectivity between space stations and IMT User Equipment, while Agenda Item AI 1.12 considers Mobile Satellite Service allocations for the development of Satellite based Internet of Things.

Alongside the conference-related work, ITU-R is developing a handbook on best practices for the sustainable use of radio frequencies and associated orbits, as well as a comprehensive handbook on satellite communications and technologies covering regulatory procedures, technical aspects, international cooperation, and emerging trends across satellite services. In addition, the ITU Handbook on Small Satellites has improved the dissemination of knowledge on regulatory procedures applicable to small satellites, including nanosatellites and picosatellites, and to serve as a standalone resource supporting their effective development.

In parallel, ITU-T continues its work on standards related to satellite networks, including numbering structures and country codes, cost models, economic and policy aspects, quality of service, and architectures and protocols supporting the convergence of fixed and mobile networks.

As you can see, the activities of the ITU-R and ITU-T are clearly complementary, illustrating the value of concerted efforts of the Sectors.

Beyond technical collaboration, an additional area of interest is the electronic working methods developed within ITU-T. I would like to recognise the work of the Telecommunication Standardisation Bureau in developing tools and processes to support the work of ITU-T Study Groups. The Radiocommunication Bureau would welcome the opportunity to draw on this experience and, where appropriate, adopt similar tools to improve our own internal processes and efficiency.

In this context, the work of the AI for Good team has also demonstrated that the use of artificial intelligence is an important driver of transformation. AI offers practical opportunities to enhance how we work across Bureaux and Sectors. We look to TSB not only to continue leading the AI for Good event, but also to play a central role in supporting the adoption of AI within the Union.

Turning to prioritisation, I would like to underline the importance of the work currently being undertaken on the ITU Operational Plan. Both ITU-T and the ITU-R are making concrete efforts to implement results-based management more systematically. This includes a clearer definition of outputs and, importantly, quantifying the resources required to deliver them. This exercise will improve transparency, strengthen accountability, and support clearer prioritisation of our activities.

Finally, let me reassure you that the Radiocommunications Bureau and the Telecommunication Standardization Bureau are working together to deliver on our mandates. I would also like to acknowledge the improved communication between the Radiocommunication Advisory Group and TSAG, as well as between ITU-R and ITU-T Study Group Chairs.

With this, Mr. Chairman, I wish TSAG a productive meeting and look forward to continuing close cooperation between our Bureaux in support of the Union's objectives and the needs of our Members.

Thank you.