

## **Validation Forum for the Draft Documents on Satellite Matters and Call for Comments**

*Online event*

### ***Opening remarks***

30 August 2021

**Mario Maniewicz**

**Director, Radiocommunication Bureau**

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Mr. John Omo, Secretary General of the African Telecommunication Union,

Ladies and Gentlemen,

Good morning, good afternoon, and good evening.

It gives me great pleasure to address you in the opening of the Validation Forum of Draft Documents on Satellite Matters.

Once again \* congratulations \* for your impressive body of work!

Indeed, earlier this year I participated in the official launch of ATUs first set of Spectrum Recommendations, followed by the Validation Forum for the Draft African Spectrum Allocation Plan (AfriSAP) and now the conclusion of the ATU Task Group on Satellite Resources.

The successful conclusion of this work adds to the collection of achievements of the African Telecommunications Union and of its Member States.

It is clear that challenges related to the COVID pandemic were no impediment to the work of the African Region in the field of spectrum management. Quite on the contrary, your efforts have continued in full speed!

I am especially pleased with the outcomes that will be discussed during these next days, the Study Report on the State of Satellite Resources in Africa; the Strategy on Optimum Acquisition, Retention and Utilization of Satellite Resources in Africa; and the Handbook on Satellite Fillings and Coordination.

First because of their valuable content: I am convinced that the work carried out to produce these three documents is crucial for a successful implementation of the African Space Policy as a whole. They will surely constitute reference documents for African countries in order to foster their involvement in the space economy. They also contain valuable policy, operational and practical pieces of advice related to the implementation of the African orbit/spectrum resources.

But I must also highlight that I am equally pleased of the gracious invitation for the BR to participate in the working sessions of the group having developed these documents, and the opportunity we had to contribute to the documents and make comments throughout the whole drafting process.

I sincerely hope that this proves what I have mentioned to you several times, that the BR is always committed to support the ATU and all African Member States in every Radiocommunication related issue.

Before I end, let me invite you to consult our new website, based on the successful World Radiocommunication Seminar held at the end of last year. The website is called "Best of WRS-20", and it is the latest, although not the last, BR tool aimed at improving our capacity-building offer. The plenary sessions of the World Radiocommunication Seminar are fully available online and they provide a great opportunity for those that were not able to attend the event, to get access to the content on demand and benefit from the Seminar.

I wish you a good Forum, and please continue your inspiring work under the auspices of the African Telecommunication Union.

Thank you very much.