

ITU-R Study Group 7

4 April 2017 – 9h30 - ITU Headquarters, Room C

Opening Speech

François Rancy, Director, Radiocommunication Bureau

Dear Colleagues,

I am pleased to welcome you to the regular meeting of Study Group 7 in Geneva. As you well know, even taking the “leap second” into account, time flies fast and we have only a year left to complete our studies for WRC-19.

From my point of view, your study group occupies a special place in ITU’s work. When other study groups generally have to deal with commercial uses, competition and regulation, your main scope is social welfare, development of fundamental science, environmental protection and research on the cosmos. I believe that this gives you a special humanitarian mandate of great importance for the evolution of global society in the light of efforts to implement the SDGs.

With regard specifically to WRC-19 agenda items for which Study Group 7 is responsible, we increasingly encounter in practice the problem of having to protect public investments. New and powerful technologies such as microsatellites emerge, but we also have to safeguard the multi-billion dollar investments of donor countries in the development of a

global satellite system to monitor the Earth and its atmosphere and thereby help to ensure the stable future development of the human ecosystem. Regrettably, our current experience of certain situations, such as interference between RLAN and meteorological radars in the 5 GHz band, suggests that the decisions adopted by WRC are not always ideal. Increased demand for radio spectrum places a great responsibility on you to seek acceptable/ enforceable technical solutions, promoting the introduction of new technologies and ensuring harmonious development and protection of science services, in particular in the passive bands.

I wish you all the very best in your quest, and I am sure that with the guidance of your wise chairman you will be successful in meeting the challenges that face you.