

24th meeting of the Radiocommunication Advisory Group (RAG)

Tuesday, Wednesday 26 April 2017

Geneva, Switzerland

Opening remarks

Mr. François Rancy

Director, Radiocommunication Bureau

Dear colleagues and friends,

It is with great pleasure that I welcome you to Geneva and to the 24th meeting of the Radiocommunication Advisory Group. I do this also on behalf of Mr. Houlin Zhao, who is currently on mission away from Geneva and regrets not to be able to be with us today for the opening of this year's RAG meeting.

As you know, last year was a very significant one for the ITU-R community as we celebrated the 110th anniversary of the ITU Radio Regulations. Since 1906, the ITU-R has been improving and updating this treaty, which constitutes the international regulatory framework for the use of the radio-frequency spectrum and satellite-orbit resources, making sure it continues to provide a predictable framework to attract investment for the further growth of our industry.

This year, we have another important anniversary to celebrate. Indeed, 90 years ago, the International Radiotelegraph Conference that met in Washington in 1927, established the International Radio Consultative Committee (CCIR) to study technical and operating questions related to radio communications and to issue recommendations on them. The CCIR, which disappeared as such in 1992 when the additional Plenipotentiary Conference held in Geneva reformed the ITU and created the Radiocommunication Sector, can be considered as the predecessor of today's ITU-R Study Groups.

We have planned a series of events to mark this important anniversary, starting with a high-level discussion panel in connection with the WSIS-Forum, followed by a series of events/exhibitions at ITU TELECOM World, and culminating with the main celebration at an ITU-R Study Group meeting, of course. You are all very much welcome to take part in these events.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

In the framework of the preparations for the Plenipotentiary Conference to be held in 2018, the Council, which will meet shortly after the RAG, will constitute a Council Working Group to start preparing a draft version of the ITU Strategic Plan for the period 2020-2023. As the RAG will be asked to contribute to it, we would most probably schedule a special session during next year's meeting of the RAG to consider this new version of the Strategic Plan.

For the time being, as it has been customary over the past years, we will consider the draft ITU-R 4-year Rolling Operational Plan 2018-2021, trying to draw the lessons learned over this cycle so as to be able to reflect them in the new version of both the Strategic and Operational Plans for the R-Sector for the next cycle.

This meeting of the RAG will also review the implementation of WRC-15 decisions, the status of the preparations for the RA/WRC-19, the Study Groups activities and the Inter-sector coordination related activities, the progress achieved in further developing the BR information system and, last but not least, the membership outreach activities carried out by the Bureau. To this end, in addition to the reports submitted by the secretariat, the RAG has received several contributions from Member States, addressing most of the above-mentioned issues.

Among other issues, I would like to highlight that of our cooperation with the ITU-D Sector, and the situation arising from the report on Resolution 9 (Dubai, 2014). I would very much appreciate the advice of the RAG on what appears to me as a dysfunction of this cooperation and on the possible options to avoid that this happens again in the future.

Dear colleagues,

As you can see, the days to come will be filled with important topics to be discussed. As I have mentioned in previous occasions, I value the advice of the RAG on all these topics and consider it as an essential input to ensure that the membership requirements are satisfied.

In closing, let me wish you a very successful meeting.