ITU Radiocommunication Bureau returning to Physical Meetings
(With Remote Participation)

For the last two years, we have all been living, learning, and working under exceptional circumstances because of the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic.

With the support of our membership, we have successfully waded through these difficult times. We are now well adapted to virtual meetings, limited meeting hours, worked in between meetings in correspondence groups, and dealt with the challenge of reaching consensus in a virtual environment.

In 2022, there will be a return to physical meetings at ITU Headquarters. This will however be largely determined by the evolution of the pandemic and COVID-19 containment and health measures announced by the Swiss Federal Council and the Canton of Geneva.

While registering for the event(s), please duly take into consideration the information related to the sanitary measures and conditions of entry into Switzerland.

The Swiss Mission’s COVID-19 information notes, in English are regularly updated. The information below is intended for persons travelling to Switzerland in an official capacity to attend meetings and events organized by the Radiocommunication Bureau in Geneva:

The links below provide information for delegates travelling to Switzerland:

- This [link](#) provides the latest information for persons expected in official capacity. For additional information, the ITU maintains the [COVID-FREE](#) website, please see link below.
- Coronavirus: [Situation in Switzerland](#)
- The following link provides information for people [travelling to Switzerland](#):
- The [Travelcheck](#) allows you to check whether and under what conditions you can enter Switzerland.
- The following webpage provides the information on [Swiss public health measures](#):
- The following webpage provides the information on the [Swiss COVID-19 certificate](#):
- FAQ on the [Swiss COVID-19 Certificates](#)
- COVID-19: [Instructions on isolation](#)

For further information kindly see [ITU guide](#) towards a COVID-19 free ITU event
Return to physical meetings for ITU-R Study Groups and Working Parties

The following information provides measures for staying healthy and safe:

**Covid-19 containment: ITU on site measures**

To enter the ITU building a delegate must comply with the following requirements:

- Having received a full vaccination against COVID.
- Having recovered from COVID in the past 270 days.

Delegates vaccinated with a vaccine neither approved by Swissmedic, nor approved by the European Medicines Agency (EMA), nor listed on the World Health Organization (WHO)/EUL, are reminded that this vaccination will not entitle them to a Swiss Covid certificate, that can give them access to certain places in Switzerland. Therefore, they are encouraged to have a COVID serology test performed in a Swissmedic approved lab.

- All the delegates that have been allowed to enter in Switzerland will be accepted at ITU-HQ venues.
- Face masks must be worn while inside the ITU HQ premises.
- Contact tracing is undertaken at the ITU premises and participants must scan their event badges both entering and exiting, areas such as meeting rooms and the cafeteria.
- Access to the ITU premises must systematically be done via the Montbrillant entrance where the delegate’s QR code for the vaccine certificate will be scanned. The exit however can be done through any of the three access points from the buildings.

**Room seating due to COVID-19 regulations**

The following are the limitations imposed by Switzerland for in-person physical meeting:

- Participants must be seated and wear a face mask.
- The number of participants is not limited, but only two-thirds of the available seats can be occupied. no nominative seating is required.
- A distance of 1.5 metres between each seat must be respected or only every second seat may be occupied.
- Hygiene and distance measures must be respected.
- No food or drink may be consumed in the room.

**COVID-19 testing facilities available for delegates**

- Rapid Antigen Testing is currently freely available in pharmacies and other medical facilities in Geneva.
- ITU Medical service will clinically manage potential symptomatic suspect cases, perform rapid antigen testing if needed, and refer delegates to healthcare facilities when necessary.
ITU-R Study Group Meetings physical meetings with interactive remote participation

Considering the necessary matters to be addressed, all meetings of the ITU-R Study Groups and related Working Parties will resume as physical with interactive remote participation facilities available for delegates who cannot travel to Geneva as of beginning of April 2022.

The platforms to be used are Zoom, GoToMeeting and GoToWebinar. It is intended to gradually use more and more Zoom to unify the use of the same platform across the three ITU Sectors.

Advance registration and focal point approval, remain necessary to participate in the event(s) either physically or remotely.

Participants are strongly encouraged to register early including indication on how to attend the meetings and to consult the safety and security information which is regularly updated before making travel arrangements to attend the event. The Bureau would like to highlight that an estimation of the number of physical participants is necessary. Please ensure that the box Remote is ticked if attending remotely to an event. If the box is not ticked physical presence will be assumed.

You are invited to visit the BR meetings portal to see the status of your meeting.

BR remote participation (virtual) meetings

In the Radiocommunication Bureau and with the support of the ITU Information Services Department we remain virtually open for key meetings and consultation with our members.

The following meetings are scheduled to take place virtually:

- ITU-R Working Party 5D will meet remotely from 7 to 23 February 2022
- The 29th Meeting of the Radiocommunication Advisory Group (RAG) – Review of Draft ITU-R Strategic and Financial Plans will be held remotely on 24 February 2022
- ITU-R Task Group 6/1 will meet remotely from 21 February to 4 March 2022
- ITU-R Study Group 6 block meeting will meet remotely from 7-18 March 2022
- ITU-R Working Party 5B will meet remotely from 29 March to 8 April 2022

The following virtual events took place in 2021:

- The 1st ITU Inter-regional Workshop on WRC-23 Preparation was held online from 13-15 December 2021.
- The ITU Regional Radiocommunication Seminar 2021 for Asia-Pacific (RRS-2021 Asia-Pacific) – Online meeting, took place from 11-22 October 2021 in collaboration with the Asia-Pacific Telecommunity (APT).
- The Radio Regulations Board (RRB) met from 11-15 October 2021 physically with remote participation.
- The Radio Regulations Board held its 86th and 87th meetings from 22 to 26 March 2021 and from 5-13 July, respectively.
- The 28th meeting of the Radiocommunication Advisory Group (RAG) took place from 29 March to 1 April 2021. The RAG is open to representatives of Administrations of Member States and representatives of Sector Members, and to the Chairmen of the Study Groups and other groups.

- The ITU Regional Radiocommunication Seminar 2021 for Africa (RRS-21-Africa) – Online meeting, from 5-16 July 2021 in collaboration with the African Telecommunications Union (ATU).

- The 2nd ITU frequency coordination meeting on the GE84 Plan Optimization for Africa – Online met from 28 June to 2 July 2021.

Tools for our BR members

The Final Acts of the World Radiocommunication Conference WRC-19 are available online for free download.

The 2020 ITU Radio Regulations are available in all six of ITU's official languages. Electronic versions of the Regulations can be downloaded free of charge. The traditional four-volume boxed set, as well as a multi-lingual DVD are now available for purchase with discounts available to ITU members.

ITU has also published the Radio Regulations - Radio Regulations Navigation Tool, the Radio Regulations Table of Frequency Allocations Software as well as the Maritime Manual, which provides details on the modern maritime radio systems and the operational procedures to be followed by a ship or coast station in the event of a distress situation at sea. Both publications are available for sale.

Platforms being used for Remote Participation in ITU Meetings

ITU member states and delegates can participate in meetings remotely using different web conferencing platforms. We are using the platforms described below to provide the opportunity for delegates to engage in our various meetings.

**ITU Meetings with Interpretation in the six UN languages:** ITU has been a pioneer of Multilingual Interactive Remote Participation (MIRP) which allows Member States to participate in ITU meetings remotely with interpretation in the six official languages. It was first used during the eruption of Eyjafjallajökull volcano in Iceland which disrupted air traffic in Europe in April 2010.

The ITU-R currently uses the “ZOOM” MIRP platform that allows delegates to participate interactively using any of the six ITU official languages.
ITU-R Meetings in a single Language: For remote participation without interpretation, the commercial tools that have been used for ITU-R meetings are ZOOM; GoToMeeting, GoToWebinar, etc. (with PSTN dial available). The tools to support remote participation in ITU-R meetings is regularly reviewed and the harmonization of platforms used across the ITU is an ongoing project.

The above measures are being implemented on a temporary basis to cope with the restrictions and difficulties due to the Covid-19 pandemic that the entire world is facing.

Thank you for your understanding and we look forward to your active participation