



## Radiocommunication Bureau (BR)

Administrative Circular  
CA/231

29 August 2016

### To Administrations of Member States of the ITU and Radiocommunication Sector Members

Subject: **Celebrations in honour of the 110<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the ITU Radio Regulations, Geneva, 12 December 2016**

The end of this year will mark the 110<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the ITU Radio Regulations – the international treaty that enables and underpins radiocommunications globally. In order to include as many members of the ITU-R community as possible, **this anniversary will be celebrated on Monday 12 December 2016**, in conjunction with the opening of the [ITU World Radiocommunication Seminar 2016 \(WRS-16\)](#).

I have great pleasure in inviting you to attend the celebrations of this anniversary. Given the importance of this event in the context of the development of internationally harmonized radiocommunications, the participation of representatives of the whole ITU membership would be most welcome.

This invitation is also extended to the current members of the Radio Regulations Board and to the Chairs and Vice-Chairs of the ITU-R Study Groups, including the Radiocommunication Advisory Group and the Conference Preparatory Meeting,

I would also like to take this opportunity to extend, through you, this invitation to those who have largely contributed by their efforts and years-of-service to the 110-year history of the ITU Radio Regulations:

- the formal officials of the Radiocommunication Bureau, the Radio Regulations Board, and the former IFRB,
- the former Chairs of the ITU-R Study Groups, including the Radiocommunication Advisory Group, the Conference Preparatory Meeting and the Special Committee, and of the former CCIR Study Groups.

## Programme

The celebrations, to be held in conjunction with the ITU World Radiocommunication Seminar 2016 (WRS-16), will begin at **09:30 hours on Monday 12 December 2016** with an official ceremony, followed by a panel discussion on the importance of the Radio Regulations. The celebrations will be provided with simultaneous interpretation, captioning and webcast in the six official languages of the Union via the '110<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Radio Regulations' website at [www.itu.int/en/ITU-R/RR110](http://www.itu.int/en/ITU-R/RR110). The draft programme of the celebrations is contained in **Annex 1**. The full programme of the event will be made available on the event website.

A brief on the 110<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the ITU Radio Regulations is contained in **Annex 2**.

## Registration and practical information

Participants registered to the ITU World Radiocommunication Seminar 2016 (WRS-16)<sup>1</sup> will be automatically registered to also attend the celebrations in honour of the 110<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the ITU Radio Regulations.

For further inquiries about attending these celebrations, please contact the ITU-R Event Registration Unit at [ITU-R.Registrations@itu.int](mailto:ITU-R.Registrations@itu.int).



François Rancy  
Director

## Annexes: 2

### Distribution:

- Administrations of Member States of the ITU
- Radiocommunication Sector Members
- Chairmen and Vice-Chairmen of Radiocommunication Study Groups
- Chairman and Vice-Chairmen of the Radiocommunication Advisory Group
- Chairman and Vice-Chairmen of the Conference Preparatory Meeting
- Members of the Radio Regulations Board
- Secretary-General of the ITU, Director of the Telecommunication Standardization Bureau, Director of the Telecommunication Development Bureau

<sup>1</sup> See [BR Administrative Circular CA/230](#) on ITU World Radiocommunication Seminar 2016 (WRS-16), Geneva, 12-16 December 2016 or visit [www.itu.int/go/WRS-16](http://www.itu.int/go/WRS-16).

## Annex 1

### Draft Programme

#### Celebrations in honour of the 110<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the ITU Radio Regulations (1906-2016)

(a detailed programme will be made available at [www.itu.int/en/ITU-R/RR110](http://www.itu.int/en/ITU-R/RR110))

- **DATE:**

**Monday 12 December 2016**, in conjunction with the opening of the  
ITU World Radiocommunication Seminar 2016 (WRS-16)

- **VENUE:**

CICG (International Conference Centre of Geneva)  
Rue de Varembe 17, 1211 Geneva, Switzerland

- **DRAFT PROGRAMME:**

**09:30 hours** – Beginning of the #RR110 ceremony

**Speakers:**

Opening

Mr Houlin Zhao, Secretary-General, ITU

Mr François Rancy, Director, Radiocommunication Bureau, ITU

Invited speaker(s)

**10:40 hours** – Coffee break

**11:00 hours** – Panel discussion on the importance of the ITU Radio Regulations

**12:30 hours** – Lunch break

**14:00 hours** – ITU World Radiocommunication Seminar 2016 (WRS-16)

## Annex 2



### 110<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the ITU Radio Regulations (1906-2016)

**Follow on social media twitter hashtag #RR110 and on amateur-radio call sign 4U1ITU**

In 1906, the first International Radiotelegraph Conference gathered 30 Maritime States<sup>2</sup> in Berlin to sign the “[International Radiotelegraph Convention](#)” establishing the principle of compulsory intercommunication between vessels at sea and the land. The annex to that Convention contained the first regulations governing wireless telegraphy. Those regulations, which have since been expanded and revised by numerous radio conferences, are now known as the ITU [Radio Regulations](#).

The Radio Regulations apply to frequencies ranging from 9 kHz to 3000 GHz, and now incorporate over 2,000 pages specifying the rights and obligations of the 193 member states of the ITU in using spectrum and orbit resources. In an increasingly “unwired” world, some 40 different radio services share spectrum according to their current and expected requirements in order to provide high quality services and support an increasingly growing numbers of users.

In 2016, the [ITU membership](#) has good reasons to celebrate the 110<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the ITU Radio Regulations. The [World Radiocommunication Conference \(WRC\)](#) process, through which these Radio Regulations are updated, has been instrumental in providing for timely and effective international regulatory frameworks for the establishment of advanced wireless services and applications, while safeguarding the interests and rights of all radiocommunication users. One hundred and ten years after 1906, this process has proven to be responsive to the exponential growth of radiocommunication services, fueled by permanent innovation in technology and growing expectations from the general public.

Radiocommunication has become pervasive in our lives, from devices and appliances (such as personal mobile phones, radio-controlled watches, radio headsets); for home and office networking (such as wireless access to the network, PC device radio connection, remote control), for navigation (using different radio positioning systems), intelligent transportation systems (such as toll control, collision avoidance), broadcasting (radio, TV and data), for emergency communications (comprehensive radio disaster warning and relief systems), to the Internet of Things. We are now observing the rapid deployment of cellular systems of the fourth generation (4G), based on [ITU's](#)

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<sup>2</sup> Germany, the United States of America, Argentina (Republic of), Austria, Hungary, Belgium, the United States of Brazil, Bulgaria, Chile, Denmark, Egypt, Spain, France, Great Britain, Greece, Italy, Japan, Mexico, Monaco, Montenegro, Norway, the Netherlands, Persia, Portugal, Romania, Russia, Siam, Sweden, Turkey, and Uruguay.

[IMT](#) (International Mobile Telecommunications) regulations and standards, and development of ITU's IMT-2020 regulations and standards for the fifth generation (5G) is well underway.

The ITU membership is invited to celebrate this anniversary by organizing national events, and through (see [www.itu.int/go/ITU-R/RR110](http://www.itu.int/go/ITU-R/RR110)):

- social media on twitter hashtag #RR110,
  - radio amateur call sign 4U1ITU,
  - participating in the Thunderclap campaign,
  - sending short videos to [brpromo@itu.int](mailto:brpromo@itu.int) on your relevant activities related to the ITU Radio Regulations for posting online,
  - attending the **ITU World Radiocommunication Seminar 2016 (WRS-16)** where the 110<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the ITU Radio Regulations will be celebrated (see [www.itu.int/go/WRS-16](http://www.itu.int/go/WRS-16)).
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