Radiocommunication Assembly 2019
(RA-19)
Sharm el-Sheikh, Egypt

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Welcome Remarks

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Mr. Chairman,
Excellencies,
Mr Secretary-General,
Ladies and gentlemen,
Dear friends,

It is both a pleasure and an honor for me to in turn address the 2019 Radiocommunication Assembly. First let me thank the Egyptian administration who welcomes us here in Sharm El Sheikh. We have experienced a warm reception upon our arrival and we are sure that we will all find that the facilities provided during the Assembly meet our expectations.

The Radiocommunication Assembly marks the end of a study period. Huge amounts of work have been undertaken within the study groups, but there is still a bit more to be done. During the next five days you will have the opportunity to consider a number of draft Recommendations developed by the Study Groups that still require your attention. I am confident that you will find the appropriate solutions to conclude your task successfully. These new Recommendations will set the stage for further development of radiocommunication systems.

The RA also provides a suitable occasion to look ahead and define how we will conduct the next study period and the structure in which it shall be undertaken.

The Assembly is also the moment to review the ITU-R Resolutions that provide guidance to the activities of the Study Groups and the Conference Preparatory Meeting (CPM). In your hands lay the chance to increase the efficiency in the working methods of the Study Groups, in the planning of their future work, and in the agility of the process as a whole.

Of particular importance, this RA will consider modifications to Resolution 2, which is the extremely important Resolution that governs the development of CPM Reports to the World Radiocommunication Conferences. I have the utmost confidence that the work in this area will significantly enhance the ITU-R's preparatory process for WRCs. Moreover, I believe that this effort will result in an even more useful CPM Report that will improve the quality of proposals for the work of the WRC, as well as facilitate more efficient consensus-building processes at the national, regional and inter-regional levels prior to the start of the WRC.

You will also have the delicate task of electing Chairmen and Vice-Chairmen to the Study Groups and to the CCV, CPM and RAG. In this respect, due attention will need to be taken of the guidance provided in Resolution 208 (Rev. Dubai, 2018).

You have only five days to accomplish your task – the time available for each item of business is extremely short and the time management of the meetings will have to be approached with the utmost care. As always, you can rely on the staff of the Radiocommunication Bureau to provide every assistance. I am confident that with the goodwill that prevails at events such as these, together with the sound leadership of your Chairman, we can look forward to a rewarding Assembly and to a fruitful outcome on Friday.

Before I finalize, I wanted to mention that one of the duties of the Radio Assembly is to pay tribute to the members of the ITU-R community that have significantly contributed to our work and have passed away since RA-15. We will do so this time at the Closing Plenary, to ensure we get all inputs from the relevant Member States.

Thank you.