

**Council Working Groups for the Strategic and Financial Plans 2024-2025
CWG - SFP**

Virtual event

Opening Remarks

29 September 2021

**Mr. Mario Maniewicz
Director, Radiocommunication Bureau**

Good morning, good afternoon, and good evening to you all.

On behalf of the Secretary-General and the other ITU Elected Officials, I am very pleased to welcome you to this first meeting of the Council Working Group for the Strategic and Financial Plans 2024-2027. Unfortunately, this meeting will be virtual, but let us hope that we will soon be able to meet again physically.

I would like to start by thanking the Chairman, Mr. Frederic Sauvage (from France), as well as the Vice-Chairs, Mr Dominic Ooko (from Kenya), Ms Michele Wu-Bailey (from United States), Ms Sameera Belal (from Kuwait), Mr Chunfei Zhang (from China), Ms Natalia Reznikova (from the Russian Federation) and Mr Oli Bird (from United Kingdom) for their commitment to lead the work of this important Council Working Group.

To support your work in developing the draft Strategic and Financial Plans 2024-2027, we, in the Secretariat have set-up a cross-sectoral Strategic Planning Working Group, and a dedicated project team, composed of experts from each of the Bureaux and the General Secretariat. The Coordination Committee has chosen me to Chair this Group, demonstrating the commitment of all Elected Officials to this process. It is my honour to lead the Secretariat's work and support this CWG.

In addition to the Secretariat, we will have a consulting company that will assist us in this journey, bringing on board their experience with other UN agencies and private companies in building Strategic Plans.

As you can see, you are not alone in this very important and challenging task to develop the overall Strategic Plan of the ITU.

Dear Colleagues,

As you know, we can say that – in simple terms – defining a strategy includes three aspects: The first, is understanding what is going on (both within the ITU and in the world a large). The second, is defining where we wish to go (what are our goals & objectives). And lastly, how can we get there (and that includes what should we do, but also, and very importantly, what should we stop doing).

I recognise the short time frame we have until the Plenipotentiary Conference of 2022 and the additional constraints related to virtual meetings. Nevertheless, I am confident that working efficiently and productively we will accomplish our task in a timely manner.

During this meeting, we will already advance in the first step of our work by conducting a situational analysis. The Secretariat has submitted substantial background information for your consideration. They have also summarized the findings and lessons learned from the previous strategic plan and prepared an analysis on the informal consultations.

And at this early point in time, your recommendations on the way forward and the definition of overarching principles, will guide the development of the new strategic plan.

Dear friends,

During the COVID-19 pandemic, we observed the importance of technology, of digitalization, and of relevant policies and regulations. It is our duty to respond to these demands. And, as counsellors, you have a central role of shaping the future and the success of the UN specialized agency in ICTs, and – ultimately – shaping the telecommunications sector at large.

So, with that, I turn back to the Chairman of the group. I am confident that under the leadership of Mr. Sauvage and with the support from the CWG management team, we will achieve great results.

As the Secretariat, please count on us, we are here to support you.

I wish you a fruitful meeting.

Thank you very much.