

6th APT Conference Preparatory Group for WRC-23

APG23-6

Brisbane, Australia

Opening Remarks

14 August 2023

Mario Maniewicz
Director, Radiocommunication Bureau

Mr. Richard Windeyer, Deputy Secretary, Department of Infrastructure, Transport, Regional Development, Communications and the Arts, Australia

Dr. Kyu-Jin Wee, Chairman of the APG23,

Mr. Masanori Kondo, Secretary General of the APT,

Mr. Mohammed Al Ramsi, Chairman designate, WRC-23

Ms. Zhu Keer and Mr. Muneo Abe, Vice-chairs of the APG23,

Mr. Kavouss Arasteh, Special Senior Adviser to the APG-23,

Distinguished delegates,

Good morning.

It gives me great pleasure to stand before you today in this 6th and last meeting of the APT Conference Preparatory Group for WRC-23. The high number of registered participants for this meeting reflects its importance and the significance of the upcoming discussions. I thank the Asia-Pacific Telecommunity for the kind invitation to be with you here in beautiful Brisbane.

As you know, Australia is known not only for its tropical beaches, rainforests, and koalas, but also for curtailing discussions and emphasizing the power of simplification by applying the Australian method!

Jokes aside, I thank very much the Australian Administration for their hospitality and warm welcome.

Ladies and gentlemen,

First let me start by expressing my deepest appreciation for the commitment and efforts exhibited by all members of the Asia Pacific Telecommunications Conference Preparatory Group for WRC-23 throughout this study cycle.

In the culmination of our common endeavour, I count on you to make use of this final meeting to develop preliminary APT common proposals for WRC-23 and RA-23. By engaging in fruitful conversations and constructive discussions, you can foster the consolidation of regional proposals, ultimately propelling the approval of global agreements.

Distinguished delegates,

As we embark on the final preparations for the Radiocommunication Assembly and the World Radiocommunication Conference of 2023, I would like to highlight several important points that deserve our attention.

During this study cycle, several of you have approached me to suggest ways in which our work could be made more efficient and effective. The RA will be an opportunity to propose such changes to ITU-R working methods and processes.

The RA will also have a critical role in appointing the Chairs and Vice-Chairs of ITU-R Study Groups, Coordination Committee for Vocabulary, Conference Preparatory Meeting and the Radiocommunication Advisory Group for the four years to come. All the necessary details on this matter are available in BR Administrative Circular number 1058.

While we cannot disregard the geopolitical landscape in which the conference will take place, I invite you to focus on the technical competence of the candidates and on the principles of geographical distribution as well as those contained in the Gender Declaration approved in WRC-19.

The success of the RA will ensure a smooth and positive transition to WRC-23 which will be of utmost importance for the technical development of radiocommunication services.

In fact, the decisions made during the conference will lead to numerous investments in areas such as terrestrial and satellite broadband, emergency services, and space research services amongst others.

Beyond technological advancements, the outcome of the conference has the potential to improve the efficiency of other sectors, aid climate change monitoring, and enhance the lives of all.

Dear colleagues,

Looking even further ahead to WRC-27, and more specifically to Agenda Item 10, it is evident that there is a growing number of proposals for future agenda items.

In this regard, it is essential to follow closely the principles defined in Resolution 804, which emphasize that agenda items should address worldwide or regional issues beyond the interests of a single administration or company.

Regional organizations are also expected to provide an indication of priority when submitting proposals for the conference agenda.

Furthermore, if an issue can be resolved without amending the Radio Regulations, it should be addressed through actions undertaken by the ITU-R Study Groups.

These principles will alleviate the burden on WRCs while ensuring efficient work within ITU-R study groups – which has become even more relevant in a scenario where we need to manage the budgetary resources associated with each subject effectively.

Mr. Chairman,

Study Groups and Working Parties are conducting their final meetings of the cycle in September and October and are finalizing their respective studies. During this period, the BR secretariat is collecting relevant outcomes such as Recommendations and Reports, to prepare the inputs to RA-23.

I note that the Report of the Director on the activities of the Radiocommunication Sector and its various Addenda is being made available in Document 4. The Reports by the RRB to WRC-23 on Resolutions 35 (WRC-19) and 80 (Rev.WRC-07) are already available. Administrations and regional groups are invited to consider the information included in these documents to prepare relevant proposals to WRC-23.

With respect to the Director's Report, Addendum 2 of the Report may require your particular attention. It presents the difficulties and inconsistencies encountered by the Bureau in the application of the Radio Regulations.

Among the most challenging topics, the Report includes the registration of mobile stations in the Master Register, the No. 21.5 issue; recommendations on prevention and mitigation of harmful interference to RNSS; and proposes possible suppression of the publication of API/C for satellite networks.

The Bureau has carefully analysed these topics and brings them to the attention and consideration of WRC-23, together with specific proposals or solutions. It would be useful that WRC-23 decides on a specific action for each item raised in the reports.

It is also worth mentioning that this year several entities of the ITU Radiocommunication Sector, including the RRB, RAG, and Study Group 4 have raised a pressing need for improvements in the ITU regulatory framework related to satellite communications to ensure its sustainable development, especially for non-geostationary networks.

The Report of the CPM to WRC-23 is also available for information in Document 3 of the Conference and in the Conference Proposal Interface (CPI) tool for WRC-23. I would strongly encourage the use of the CPI tool when developing regional and national proposals with changes to the Radio Regulations. By utilizing this tool, we can ensure accuracy and efficiency in the processing of input contributions. Let us make the most of this valuable resource.

Furthermore, sending your contributions in advance will help the smooth progress of our preparations and will avoid last-minute processing and translation of contributions in six languages during the final 3 weeks prior to the conference.

I also recall that WRC-23 and RA-23 will be an in-person conference and remote participation will not be supported. However, streaming of the meetings with interpretation will be available online.

Finally, the third ITU-R Interregional workshop on WRC-23, is confirmed from the 27 to 29 of September in Geneva. You are all very welcome to attend.

Attending previous requests, the 3rd workshop will encourage interactive exchanges. The regional groups will be invited to provide their positions on all the WRC-23 agenda items and topics, and, in addition, they will elaborate and exchange further on the positions of other regional groups on a limited number of challenging agenda items that require deeper understanding.

At that occasion, the WRC-23 informal group will also meet and is expected to finalize the relatively stable informal preliminary draft structure of WRC-23.

In preparing for this 5th meeting of the informal group, the regional organizations are invited to continue consultations in order to propose unique candidates to chair Committees, Working Groups or Sub-Groups on agenda items or topics, and to consider additional candidates regarding vacant positions, bearing in mind the WRC-23 Informal Group Chairman's Note.

Ladies and gentlemen,

Let us seize this occasion to consolidate our proposals and forge a path that leverages our unified efforts. Together, we can act as catalysts for technological advancements.

As we approach WRC-23, I trust your spirit of cooperation to take decisions through consensus. I trust your experience to guide us to agreements. And I trust your wisdom to ensure WRC-23 will be a success.

With a busy meeting schedule ahead, time is of the essence. I wish you a highly productive meeting filled with fruitful deliberations.

Thank you very much.