

## **International Women's Day 2022**

Tuesday, 8 March

### **Message to BR Staff by**

by

**Mario Maniewicz,**

**Director, ITU Radiocommunication Bureau**

---

Today, 8 March is International Women's Day.

In the past two years, the celebration of this historic day has been rather muted because of the COVID-19 pandemic and the resulting disruption to our daily routines.

I am glad that this year we are celebrating the social, economic, cultural, and political achievements of women as life begins to return to normal with the lifting of COVID-19 measures in many countries. On this day we also renew our commitment to accelerating gender parity in all spheres of life.

The theme for this year's International Women's Day is, "Gender equality today for a sustainable tomorrow", recognizing the contribution of women and girls around the world, who are leading the charge on climate change adaptation, mitigation, and response, to build a more sustainable future for all.

Women are increasingly being recognized as more vulnerable to climate change impacts than men, as they constitute the majority of the world's poor and are more dependent on the natural resources that climate change threatens the most. There is no doubt that empowering women and girls to have a voice and be equal players in decision-making related to climate change and sustainability is essential for sustainable development and greater gender equality.

In the Radiocommunication Bureau, we continue to take bold steps forward to increase and promote the active participation of women in all our activities and meetings.

Presently, women make up about 20 per cent of participants in our various meetings, and this number dips slightly when it comes to the number of women serving as chair and vice-chair positions in ITU-R Study Groups.

As we work towards the next World Radiocommunication Conference (WRC-23), it is evidently clear that there is still much work to be done. But nothing is insurmountable, and our actions are already being guided by the Gender Declaration adopted at WRC-19 and the work being done by the [Network of Women for WRC23 \(NOW4WRC23\)](#) and the RAG Correspondence group on Gender.

Working in collaboration with our Members, I am confident we can go beyond our goal of achieving the 30 per cent threshold of women in key roles at ITU-R.

Within the Bureau, we are accelerating our efforts to achieve gender parity. To this end, we have in the recent years seen more women appointed to senior levels both in the professional and general service categories. I want to pay tribute to each of these women for being trail blazers in the BR. I can attest that their work and leadership qualities are outstanding and serve as a motivation to other women in the Bureau.

I also want to recognize all the women in the BR whose hard work, commitment and dedication continues to ensure we deliver on our mandate and fulfil the demands of our members efficiently. As I always remind everybody in BR, our work toward gender parity does not advantage women over men.

I wish you all a happy International Women's Day!