

**ITU Regional Radiocommunication Seminar for Africa**

**RRS-21-Africa –**

**Forum session on “*Radiocommunications Trends: Opportunities and challenges for the Region*”**

*Online event*

**13 July 2021**

*Opening Remarks*

**Mario Maniewicz**

**Director, Radiocommunication Bureau**

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Mr. John Omo, Secretary General of ATU,  
Distinguished participants,  
Dear friends,

It gives me great pleasure to open this Forum on “*Radiocommunications Trends: Opportunities and challenges for the Region*”, which is a key part of the agenda of the Regional Radiocommunications Seminar for Africa. And I thank the African Telecommunications Union for co-hosting this event with us today.

It gives me great satisfaction to note that we are having a high participation from the region in this important event. Indeed, 258 participants from 54 countries, 42 of which are from the Africa region, have joined this edition of the Regional Radiocommunications Seminar for Africa so far.

As you have certainly noted, the first part of the regional seminar focused on the application of the provisions of the ITU Radio Regulations and, as you may imagine, the content was consistent with that of other seminars that we hold in other regions.

Now, this second part of the Seminar is tailored to Africa’s needs and challenges on modern radiocommunications systems. It is planned to address the specific needs of the Region. And I hope it will cover the topics of your choice.

Dear colleagues,

While the ITU-R reviews and revises the Radio Regulations and develops international standards, it is up to National Administrations and their Regulatory Authorities to manage spectrum resources at the national level and within the international framework.

Technological progress, society's increasing use of radio-based technologies, and the tremendous opportunities for social and economic development that these technologies provide – especially in these COVID times – elevate even more the importance of the radio-frequency spectrum and national spectrum management.

Towards this end, we have invited expert panelists from the Member States, ITU-R Sector Members, Associates and Academia from the region, to talk about radiocommunication trends, and the increasingly complex task of meeting today's challenges while opening the door for tomorrow's opportunities.

Building on the successful experience of PRIDA workshop on National frequency allocation tables and the requests we have received for more detailed training on the RR Art 5 Tool developed by BR, this Forum will open with a tutorial session that duly responds to these demands.

Next, and also in relation to the above, we will have a session to discuss the newest trends on Modern Spectrum Management and Monitoring.

We also give the highest importance to emergency Communications Systems, and being aware of the need and challenges for the region in this matter, a specific session will be conducted on this topic.

GE84 and the digitalization of audio broadcasting has been also identified as a key and urgent matter to be tackled, and you will note that a panel on this matter has been also included in the programme.

We will also consider the 5G deployment challenges in Africa, look into the spectrum bands and the regional harmonization, and then move on to the experiences of Africa and of other Regions.

In addition, the Forum will explore other terrestrial broadband systems, such as Fixed, HAPS/HIIBS and RLANs. As well as the development of satellite systems, including GSO and non-GSO broadband satellites, Earth Stations in Motion, and small satellites.

All these systems will play a fundamental role in expanding connectivity to 70% of individuals in the Region that do not have access to the Internet today. And will allow them to reap the benefits of e-learning, e-health, teleworking and, in summary, be part of the digital economy.

Finally, the forum will conclude with a round table on WRC-23 Agenda items, the challenges, and the regional scope.

I am confident that after these two weeks, we will surely appreciate more the international framework as it stands today, and better understand the challenges and opportunities at hand to connect Africa.

Dear friends,

We have a remarkable line-up of panelists that will share with us their knowledge and expertise in the area of radiocommunications. I invite you to challenge them, ask questions, and engage in the Forum.

And I really hope you enjoy these days.

I thank you very much for your attention. Have a great Forum.