

TSAG

ITU Headquarters, Geneva, Switzerland

Opening Remarks

30 May 2023

Mario Maniewicz

Director, Radiocommunication Bureau

Mr Chairman,
TSAG Vicechairs,
Fellow Elected Officials,
Ladies and gentlemen,

Good morning.

Let me start by recognizing the remarkable contribution of the Telecommunication Standardization Sector in shaping the global telecommunications landscape, fostering interoperability, and driving innovation.

The collective efforts of the ITU-T, alongside the ITU-R and ITU-D, of course, show the commitment of the Sectors towards achieving universal connectivity and sustainable digital transformation – the common goals of the Union.

As specialized Sectors of the ITU, both the Radiocommunication Sector and the Telecommunication Standardization Sector develop international standards on telecommunications and ICTs – each on their respective domains.

While ITU-T focuses on telecommunication standardization across various areas, ITU-R is focused specifically on radiocommunications.

To ensure that the work of the Sectors complement each other, coordination is necessary. Coordination between the Advisory Groups, between the relevant study groups of ITU-R and ITU-T, and between the leadership of the Sectors.

You may wonder why I am referring to these aspects today. It is because they have emerged at the recently held meeting of the Radiocommunications Advisory Group (RAG).

In fact, several radiocommunication related matters that are being addressed under Agenda Items of the World Radiocommunication Conference 2023 or that are being studied within ITU-R Working Parties, consistent with our mandate, are also being discussed in ITU-T Study Groups 5, 13, and 20.

These matters include Unmanned Aircraft Systems (UAS), fixed, mobile and satellite convergence in IMT-2020 networks and beyond, and satellite communications in developing countries.

Let us approach this issue as an opportunity for greater collaboration and harmonization. By respecting and adhering to the specific mandates of each sector, we can avoid duplication and ensure that our efforts are channeled in the most efficient and effective manner.

I firmly support the use of Liaison Statements between ITU-T and ITU-R. These statements serve as bridges, fostering improved collaboration and facilitating the exchange of valuable insights. We encourage all groups to utilize this tool to its full potential, ensuring that work is appropriately aligned and complementary across sectors.

Additionally, I recognize the indispensable role of Administrations and the Intersectoral Coordination Group in maintaining coherence between the different sectors. Their involvement and support in avoiding overlaps, as outlined in Decision 5 of the Plenipotentiary Conference, contribute to a stronger and more unified ITU family. Together, we can navigate through the complexities and find common ground, reinforcing the spirit of cooperation and coordination.

Esteemed colleagues,

I cannot end these remarks without mentioning the World Radiocommunication Conference (WRC-23).

In less than a year's time, we will gather in the vibrant city of Dubai, United Arab Emirates, for the biggest conference of the ITU-R.

This momentous occasion provides ITU Member States the unique opportunity to come together and update the Radio Regulations — the international treaty that governs the use of the frequency spectrum and associated satellite orbits.

I extend a warm invitation to each and every one of you to join us at the WRC, in Dubai, and actively contribute to shaping the future of radiocommunications.

Mr Chairman,

While ITU-T and ITU-R have specific mandates and areas of focus, I call upon you, our Members, to work together towards the broader objectives of the Union and towards contributing to the international framework that enables the advancement of telecommunications and radiocommunications.

Thank you very much for your attention.