

ITU World Radiocommunication Seminar 2020 (WRS-20)

Virtual Event

Monday, 30 November 2020

Opening remarks

**Mario Maniewicz
Director, ITU Radiocommunication Bureau**

Distinguished participants,

Ladies and gentlemen,

It is a pleasure for me to open our first-ever virtual ITU World Radiocommunication Seminar. I am told that there is a record number of participants registered for this Seminar. We are very happy to have you all onboard. And I would like to offer a special welcome to our first-time participants.

Dear Colleagues,

Just over a year ago we concluded the 2019 World Radiocommunication Conference, the WRC-19. The decisions of the conference opened the opportunity for introducing new and advanced radiocommunication systems.

It paved the way for innovative ways to connect the world using both terrestrial and space-based communication technologies, including IMT/5G, high altitude platform stations, and constellations of non-geostationary orbit satellites.

The digital revolution is continuously opening doors to a variety of new applications that are spurring greater interest in, and demand for, the limited spectrum and orbital resources. This increased demand requires that effective spectrum management processes be implemented.

The allocation of radio frequencies, the sharing, and harmonization of their use for different purposes, is done through an international treaty called the Radio Regulations. These regulations ensure the use of the radio-frequency spectrum is rational, equitable, efficient, and economical, while aiming to prevent harmful interference between different radio services.

For more than a century the Radio Regulations has governed the global use of radio-frequency spectrum and associated satellite orbits.

Besides the Radio Regulations, the ITU also develops international standards that ensure radiocommunication services adhere to minimum technical requirements and operate without interference.

Understanding how to implement these regulations and standards at national level is critical to building robust digital ecosystems that promote access to next-generation technologies.

This is why, for the first time ever, we have opened the first week of this WRS to everyone. Whether members or not of the ITU. We are thrilled that more and more people are using and deploying radiocommunication systems. And it is our role to inform all individuals and organizations about the Radio Regulations, the international standards that govern these systems, how they are developed and how to implement them.

In this way, next time an agency, company or a university plans to launch a new radiocommunication system, for example a small satellite, they will know the framework and rules that enable Administrations throughout the world to obtain and maintain rights to use spectrum in such a way that they can operate their radiocommunication networks without causing and without suffering harmful interference.

Dear participants,

ITU organizes World Radiocommunication Seminars (WRS) on a biennial basis, in complement to the cycle of Regional Radiocommunication Seminars (RRS). World Radiocommunication Seminars deal with the use of the radio-frequency spectrum and the satellite orbits, and, in particular, with the application of the provisions of the ITU Radio Regulations.

Presenting a virtual event means we must go an extra mile to accommodate participants spread across the world and in different time zones. Consequently WRS-20 will be presented twice each day. The first session will be presented for our participants in the Asia-Pacific, and East and Southern Africa Regions and the second session will be presented for our participants in the Americas, Europe, CIS, Arab States and West Africa regions. Recordings of the seminar sessions will also be made available on our event website.

During the first week, the plenary sessions will cover the basic concepts related to Spectrum Management at national, regional, and global levels. There will also be a review of the ITU Radio Regulations as updated by WRC-19, presentations on the regulatory framework for terrestrial and space radiocommunication services and an update of the current activities being undertaken by the ITU-R Study Groups.

On the second week, the workshops will be restricted to ITU members and they will provide basic training on the use of ICT Tools developed by ITU for frequency notifications and for the technical examinations. The hands-on exercises will enable you to master both the procedures and the software tools that we are using to process your filings. Participants will be able to alternate between space and terrestrial services and between lectures and practical sessions.

We will launch further on today a programme called Network of Women for WRC-23, and I invite you to join this programme aimed at increasing the gender balance in the work of the ITU Radiocommunication Sector and in the ICT industry, in general.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

We have a heavy agenda ahead of us and I ask you to bear with us should we face any technical difficulties over the next two weeks.

I hope you all enjoy this World Radiocommunication Seminar and for those that are not members of the ITU yet, I invite you to become a member and participate actively in our work as a Sector Member, Associate or Academia.

For those that are members, I wish you great success in the work you are doing in implementing systems in accordance with the Radio Regulations and producing tangible benefits for people everywhere.

Thank you very much.