

1st meeting of ITU-R Study Group 3 in Study Period 2019-2023

Virtual event

21 August 2020

Opening Speech

Mario Maniewicz
Director, Radiocommunication Bureau

Madam Chair,

Dear Delegates,

Good morning, afternoon, or evening to you all.

It is my pleasure to welcome you to the 1st meeting of ITU-R Study Group 3 in this new study cycle. As with other Study Groups, this is also the first time that we have a virtual meeting of Study Group 3!

Let me start by expressing my gratitude to the chairman, Mrs. Carol Wilson, for carrying on leading this Group for this cycle, as well as my sincere appreciation to the continuing and newly elected Vice-Chairmen of Study Group 3.

I would also like to thank the Chairmen of Working Parties 3J, 3K and 3L, Professor Carlo Riva, Mr Paul McKenna, and Mr Christopher Behm, as well as the Acting Chairman of WP 3M, Mr Richard Rudd.

In the previous study cycle, this Study Group has carried out invaluable work and provided essential support to the other ITU-R Working Parties in their preparation for WRC-19, which is reflected in the results and outcome of both WRC-19 and CPM23-1.

The output of Study Group 3 continues to be of considerable importance to the entire radiocommunication industry. A statement that is proven by the fact that the P-series Recommendations remains the most popular ITU-R series of recommendations with the highest reported number of downloads from our website.

For this new study cycle, Study Group 3 has been tasked again with the important role of providing support on the issue of radio wave propagation prediction to many ITU-R Working Parties for their preparation for WRC-23, which will further strive the benefit of the entire radiocommunication community.

In the large majority of WRC-23 agenda items, one or more Working Parties of Study Group 3 are indicated as contributing groups, which demonstrates the key supporting role you play in the preparations for WRC-23. More specifically, Working Parties 3K, 3L and 3M will need to extend the frequency ranges of validity of their radio wave propagation prediction methods, to cover new and higher frequency bands, as specified in WRC-23 agenda items. Similarly, Working Party 3J would also need to extend the applicability of radio-meteorological models and the fundamental principles on which these methods are based.

It is recognised that these improvements are only possible as a result of extremely valuable measurement data and contributions from the ITU-R Membership, and the comprehensive data base on measurement data that is maintained by Study Group 3 and its Working Parties. It is fervently hoped that the ITU-R Membership will again provide such valuable contributions to ensure success in the efforts to:

- Examine the interaction of building entry loss and clutter, leading to a single model for the effects of the end of a path;
- Test both current and proposed new models at higher frequency bands, to cover new and emerging technologies;
- Provide models on the difficult issue of scatter from the sea surface and its impact on interference; and
- Improve the characterisation of radio noise, both man-made and naturally occurring.

The work of Study Group 3 and its Working Parties is equally important in the scientific and academic communities, where the P-series Recommendations are often used as a scientific reference. Administrations and operators rely on the accuracy of Study Group 3 radio wave propagation prediction methods in their coordination efforts and network design and optimisation. Ultimately, your work warrants that the Union and its members continue to ensure the efficient use of the valuable and scarce radio frequency spectrum and orbital positions.

During recent years, Study Group 3 has made considerable efforts to provide software implementations and validation examples of methods in the P-series Recommendations, and other data resources. These have grown very popular in the radiocommunications community and the usefulness of these resources, and the added value you provide in these efforts, are certainly appreciated and recognized.

I know there are some challenges and obstacles that are on our path to achieve widely accepted agreements on various WRC-23 agenda items and this certainly impacts the preparatory work that is being carried out. To reach agreement, the same constructive and cooperative spirit that you have shown in the past will be the key for success in this new study cycle.

Please be reassured that the staff of the Bureau and me will continue to actively support your efforts in building a sustainable ecosystem, notably by enhancing the radio wave propagation prediction methods and models.

Finally, as you already know, Mr. Sergio Buonomo has been promoted as Chief of the Study Groups Department. I would therefore like to take this opportunity to thank him for all the years he has dedicated to SG 3 prior to his role as Counsellor to SG 5.

I thank you for your attention and wish you a very successful meeting.