

1st ITU Inter-regional Workshop on WRC-23 Preparation

Virtual event

Closing Remarks

15 December 2021

Mario Maniewicz
Director, Oficina de Radiocomunicaciones de la UIT

Dear Chairmen of the regional groups and regional organizations,

Dear Chairman of the CPM,

Dear Chairman of the WRC-23 Informal Group,

Distinguished delegates,

Dear friends,

The 1st ITU Inter-regional Workshop on WRC-23 Preparation is coming to an end and I would like to thank the 680 participants who have join this event online, representing more than 82 ITU Member States and various Radiocommunication Sector Members, UN sister agencies, Associates and Academia.

The participation at an ITU Inter-regional Workshop on a WRC Preparation was never that high!

Of course, the online participation is a key factor of these statistics, but it also shows the significant interest that many of the topics on the WRC-23 agenda have raised.

I would like to thank our Chair of the CPM, who provided clear guidance for the preparation of the Workshop, and all the Chairmen of the ITU-R Working Parties and Task Group, as well as the members of the ITU-R community who helped them to prepare the high-level information they have provided during the 3 days of this event.

I would like to thank all of them also for the support they provided during the Workshop to moderate the interesting discussions in the various roundtables on the WRC-23 issues at stake.

The other key players were of course the Chairmen and Representatives of the main six regional groups and various stakeholders, who have also supported the preparation and have participated in the roundtables of this Workshop.

The information exchanged during the discussions helped to better understand the ideas, views, positions, expected solutions, but also the difficulties remaining to be addressed between now and WRC-23. For this reason, this Workshop has already fulfilled one its main objectives.

Another main objective achieved at this Workshop is to clearly identify the responsible persons, leaders and key-players for the various agenda items of WRC-23, to be able to further discuss with them in the coming months. This should facilitate the establishment of the needed confidence to come to consensus on the difficult issues, looking for a win-win situation where everyone will be equally happy at and after WRC-23. This is clearly in the spirit of the ITU tradition of consensus building.

Dear Participants,

I would not attempt to list to all the key elements identified during the last 3 days, but let me give you just a few:

- The clear interest by the mobile industry and operators in new frequency bands and new technologies, such as the HIPS, which will facilitate addressing the dilemma between capacity and coverage in the

deployment of IMT 2020 (5G) networks in urban, sub-urban and rural areas.

- The equally high interest of incumbent stakeholders to continue the extensive use of these bands for applications related to broadcasting, satellite, amateur and several other services, which are also beneficial and important for many people.
- The key interests of our sister UN agencies, ICAO, IMO and WMO, in getting new spectrum to facilitate the development of enhanced services and applications that will certainly help to meet several UN SDGs.
- The new ways to use some frequency bands allocated to the satellite services for communications while in motion and/or between satellites in the GSO and/or non-GSOs, while preserving the important principle of equitable access for all countries to the GSO in some planned bands.
- The advice and wisdom of our most experienced colleagues who attended many past WRCs and who continue to actively participate in the WRC preparation, including for the development of principles to clearly define the topics for the agenda of the subsequent WRC (WRC-27), as well as the following WRC preliminary agenda (WRC-31) together with the associated WRC resolutions.

So, once again, I would like to thank all those who actively participated in the successful discussions during this Workshop.

Dear Colleagues,

All these discussions would not have been possible without a good understanding of the six languages used in the Union, and I would like to thank very much the Interpreters, who managed to facilitate this understanding despite sometime technical issues with the audio systems.

Before ending my closing remarks, I would like to take few more minutes to also thank the ITU Staff who prepared and supported this workshop behind the scenes, in particular:

- The BR registration service including Mrs. Adrienne Bonnici;
- The BR communication service, including Mr. Patrick Maigua and Ms. Grace Petrin;
- The ITU IS and Conference Departments who provided the facilities for this on-line event, including Mr. Mohammad Althaher, our technical moderator Ms. Alina Ghergut and the chief interpreters Ms. Litao Hui;
- Mrs. Fabienne Huguet, from the BR Study Group Department, who devoted many hours, including in the evenings and during the last weekend, to make sure that all the information provided be made available on time; and
- Last but certainly not least, I would like to thank our Councilor, Mr. Philippe Aubineau, who was the main organizer of this workshop and worked tirelessly to make sure that we would have a successful event.

Dear Friends,

I believe that you will take away important information from this Workshop that will facilitate your preparation for the regional and the ITU-R meetings next year, which I hope you will be able to attend in person.

As indicated earlier, next year will be a very busy period with important conferences and a very busy agenda for the ITU-R community, but I am confident that with the cooperation of all, it will be a successful year for the ITU.

Let me finish by wishing you all a happy and enjoyable end-of-year period, with my best wishes to you and your families for the coming year 2022.