

**24th meeting of the RCC Commission on the Regulation of the Usage of the
Radio Frequency Spectrum and Satellite Orbits**

Saint Petersburg, Russian Federation

Monday 4 September 2023

Opening Remarks

**Mario Maniewicz
Director, Radiocommunication Bureau**

His Excellency, Mr. Dimitrii Kim, Vice-minister, Ministry of Digital Development,
Telecommunications and Mass Media

His Excellency, Mr. Nurudin Mukhitdinov, Director General of the Executive
Committee of the Regional Commonwealth in the Field of Communications,

Mr. Valety Butenko, Chairman of the RCC Commission on the Regulation of the
Usage of the Radio Frequency Spectrum and Satellite Orbits,

His Excellency, Mohammed Al-Ramsi, Chairman designate, WRC-23

Delegates from the Member States,

Ladies and Gentlemen,

It is a great pleasure for me to address you at this 24th meeting of the RCC Commission on the use of radio frequency spectrum and satellite orbits. For more than 30 years your Commission and its Working Groups have been providing a great contribution to the harmonization of frequency utilization in the RCC region, promoting emerging radio technologies, and leading international activities on spectrum and orbit management.

This meeting is especially important in light of the major ITU conferences that will take place this year, the Radiocommunication Assembly, the World Radiocommunication Conference, and the first session of the Conference Preparatory Meeting to WRC-27.

This could make your schedule very busy bearing in mind the need to prepare the RCC regional positions for all three events.

Ladies and gentlemen,

At the onset of this meeting, I want to express my appreciation for the commitment and efforts exhibited by all members of the RCC throughout this study cycle.

It has not been an easy cycle, but the culmination of our common endeavour is at hand!

I note that RCC has already agreed on some Common Proposals in its previous meetings. Surely this final meeting of the study cycle will be key to consolidating Common proposals for the remaining WRC-23 agenda items and topics.

By engaging in fruitful conversations and constructive discussions you can foster the consolidation of regional proposals, propelling the approval of global agreements.

Distinguished delegates,

As we embark on the final preparations for the Radiocommunication Assembly and the World Radiocommunication Conference of 2023, I would like to highlight several important points that deserve our attention.

During this study cycle, several of you have approached me to suggest ways in which our work could be made more efficient and effective. The RA will be an opportunity to propose such changes to ITU-R working methods and processes.

The RA will also have a critical role in appointing the Chairs and Vice-Chairs of ITU-R Study Groups, Coordination Committee for Vocabulary, Conference Preparatory Meeting, and the Radiocommunication Advisory Group for the four years to come. All the necessary details on this matter are available in BR Administrative Circular number 1058.

In its turn, WRC-23 will be of utmost importance for the technical development of radiocommunication services. The decisions made during the conference will lead to numerous investments in areas such as terrestrial and satellite broadband, emergency services, space research services amongst others.

Beyond technological advancements, the outcome of the conference has the potential to improve the efficiency of other sectors, aid climate change monitoring, and enhance the lives of all.

I count very much on the active and constructive participation of RCC administrations in WRC-23, in particular on your traditional spirit of cooperation and compromise that will be beneficial for the entire international radiocommunication community.

Dear colleagues,

Looking even further ahead to WRC-27, and more specifically to Agenda Item 10, it is evident that there is a growing number of proposals for future agenda items.

In this regard, it is essential to follow closely the principles defined in Resolution 804, which emphasize that agenda items should address worldwide or regional issues beyond the interests of a single administration or company.

Regional organizations are also expected to provide an indication of priority when submitting proposals for the conference agenda.

Furthermore, if an issue can be resolved without amending the Radio Regulations, it should be addressed through actions undertaken by the ITU-R Study Groups.

These principles will alleviate the burden on WRCs while ensuring efficient work within ITU-R study groups – which has become even more relevant in a scenario where we need to manage the budgetary resources associated with each subject effectively.

Mr. Chairman,

Study Groups and Working Parties are conducting their final meetings of the cycle in September and October and are finalizing their respective studies. During this period, the BR secretariat is collecting relevant outcomes such as Recommendations and Reports, to prepare the inputs to RA-23.

I note that the Report of the Director on the activities of the Radiocommunication Sector has been made available in Document 4, together with the Reports of the RRB to WRC-23 on Resolutions 35 (WRC-19) and 80 (Rev.WRC-07). Administrations and regional groups are invited to consider the information included in these documents to prepare relevant proposals for WRC-23.

With respect to the Director's Report, Addendum 2 of the Report may require your particular attention. It presents the difficulties and inconsistencies encountered by the Bureau in the application of the Radio Regulations.

Among the most challenging topics, the Report includes the registration of mobile stations in the Master Register, the No. 21.5 issue, recommendations on prevention and mitigation of harmful interference to RNSS and proposes possible suppression of the publication of API/C for satellite networks.

The Bureau has carefully analysed these topics and brings them to the attention and consideration of WRC-23, together with specific proposals or solutions. It would be useful that WRC-23 decides on a specific action for each item raised in the reports.

One item, which is not raised in the Director's Report, but is important for RCC, is that Tajikistan and Turkmenistan do not have allotments in the AP30B Plan. Both countries can send a request for assistance to BR in accordance with Article 7 of AP30B to obtain such allotments.

It is also worth mentioning that this year several entities of the ITU Radiocommunication Sector, including the RRB, RAG, and Study Group 4, have raised a pressing need for improvements in the ITU regulatory framework related to satellite communications to ensure its sustainable development, especially for non-geostationary networks.

The Report of the CPM to WRC-23 is also available for information in Document 3 of the Conference and in the Conference Proposal Interface (CPI) tool for WRC-23. I would strongly encourage the use of the CPI tool when developing regional and national proposals with changes to the Radio Regulations. By utilizing this tool, we can ensure accuracy and efficiency in the processing of input contributions. Let us make the most of this valuable resource.

Furthermore, sending your contributions in advance will help the smooth progress of our preparations and will avoid last-minute processing and translation of contributions in six languages during the final 3 weeks prior to the conference.

I also recall that WRC-23 and RA-23 will be in-person conferences and remote participation will not be supported. However, streaming of the meetings with interpretation will be available online.

Finally, the third ITU-R Interregional workshop on WRC-23 is confirmed from the 27 to 29 of September in Geneva. You are all very welcome to attend.

Attending previous requests, the 3rd workshop will encourage interactive exchanges. The regional groups will be invited to provide their positions on all the WRC-23 agenda items and topics, and, in addition, they will elaborate and exchange further on the positions of other regional groups on a limited number of challenging agenda items that require a deeper understanding.

On that occasion, the WRC-23 informal group will also meet and is expected to finalize the relatively stable informal preliminary draft structure of WRC-23.

In preparing for this 5th meeting of the informal group, the regional organizations are invited to continue consultations in order to propose unique candidates to chair Committees, Working Groups, or Sub-Groups on agenda items or topics, and to consider additional candidates regarding vacant positions, bearing in mind the WRC-23 informal group Chairman's Note.

Ladies and gentlemen,

As you certainly noticed, in these introductory remarks I focused mainly on the preparations for the Radiocommunication Assembly, WRC-23, and CPM27, since we are now very much devoted to the preparation of these conferences.

Nonetheless, the activities of the RCC working groups on Spectrum Management and Broadcasting certainly remain very important for regional spectrum harmonization and to enable affordable communications in your countries.

I would like to conclude my speech by thanking the RCC for the opportunity of addressing you today and I wish you constructive and fruitful discussions.

Thank you very much.