

## 5th Meeting of the APT Conference Preparatory Group for WRC-23

Busan, Republic of Korea

### Opening Remarks

20 Feb 2023

**Mario Maniewicz**

**Director, Radiocommunication Bureau**

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Mr. Woo Hyuk Choi, Director General, Radio Policy Bureau, Ministry of Science and ICT, Rep. of Korea

Mr. Masanori Kondo, Secretary General of the APT,

Dr. Kyu-Jin Wee, Chairman of the APG23,

Ms. Zhu Keer and Mr. Muneo Abe, Vice-chairs of the APG23,

Mr. Kavouss Arasteh, Special Senior Adviser to the APG-23,

Distinguished delegates,

Good morning.

It is my pleasure to address you today at the opening of this APG23-5 meeting.

Since it is the first time that I address the APG after the Plenipotentiary Conference of 2022, I want to thank you for entrusting me with a Second mandate as the Director of the Radiocommunication Bureau. For me it is an honor and a great responsibility to serve the Radiocommunication Sector and its Members.

As you know, we have a busy year ahead with several major conferences on the horizon. The Conference Preparatory Meeting 23-2, the Radiocommunication Assembly, the World Radiocommunication Conference of 2023, followed by the first session of CPM 2027.

Each of these conferences represent a unique opportunity for us to come together as a global community and address some of the pressing challenges to connect the world and enable sustainable digital transformation.

Dear Colleagues,

The Conference Preparatory Meeting of 2023 will begin in just over a month. It will consolidate the CPM Report on the technical, operational, and regulatory or procedural matters to be considered by the Conference. As it approaches, I would like to provide you with some important information regarding chairing positions.

According to preliminary discussions at the CPM-23 Management Team meeting, the structure of CPM23-2 should follow the structure of the draft CPM Report. This will result in the establishment of one Working Group per Chapter of the draft CPM Report, in addition to the CPM23-2 Plenary.

If necessary, depending on the input contributions, an Ad-hoc Group may also be established to deal with Annex 1 of the draft CPM Report and to consider, for information only, elements for the WRC-27 agenda in relation to WRC-23 agenda item 10. In addition, sub-working groups (SWG) or drafting groups (DG) may also be established to deal with specific WRC-23 agenda items.

If the CPM-23 Chapter Rapporteurs or (Co)Rapporteurs are available, they could chair the CPM23-2 Working Groups. Similarly, the same person who chaired the agenda items within the responsible groups could chair sub-working groups or drafting groups. However, depending on the case, another person could be proposed by the Working Group Chair or the CPM Chair.

Later this year, the Radio Assembly will consider a series of Recommendations, Resolutions, and study Questions for new and emerging technologies.

Regional common proposals for the Radiocommunications Assembly are very welcome, as they will facilitate the work of reaching global consensus.

Within the BR, preparations for the Radio Assembly are ongoing and the ITU will issue a letter to invite Administrations to propose candidates for Study Group Chairs and Vice-Chairs after CPM23-2.

With regards to Working Party Chairs, the Correspondence group of the RAG is working on possible revisions to Res. ITU-R 1-8 and is considering the appropriateness of establishing maximum term of office for them. The discussion is still ongoing, and the Correspondence Group will report its outcomes to the next RAG meeting.

Moving on to our flagship conference, the WRC-23 will mark the completion of the four-year study cycle and culminate with the review and revision of the Radio Regulations.

I would like to call your attention to two Resolutions that were approved by the last Plenipotentiary Conference and will be brought to the attention of WRC-23, namely the Resolution on the *Use of frequency assignments by military radio installations for National Defense Services*, and the *Sustainability of the radio-frequency spectrum and associated satellite orbit resources used by space services*.

In addition, let me provide you with an update on the outcome of WRC-23 Informal Group regarding the structure of the WRC, as well as the chairing positions for the Committees and Working Groups.

The preliminary informal structure of WRC-23 is expected to be very similar to that of WRC-19, with 7 Committees (COMs) and 8 Working Groups (WGs): 3 in COM 4, 3 in COM 5 and 2 in COM 6.

While the assignment of the WRC-23 agenda items and topics is close to a consensus in Committee 5 on the satellite issues, and in some of the WGs in COMs 4 and 6, more work is still needed to finalize the WRC-23 preliminary informal structure at the 3<sup>rd</sup> meeting of the WRC-23 informal group, planned to be held during CPM23-2.

I note some regional groups have shown interest in chairing Committees, such as APT for COM 4; CEPT, CITEL and RCC for COM 5, and ATU for COM 6. Some regional groups have also shown interest in chairing Working Groups, [such as APT and ASMG for WG 4A; RCC for WG 4C, CEPT for WG 5A, ASMG for WG 5B, APT for WG 5C and ASMG for WG 6B].

Regarding the abovementioned chairing positions at CPM23-2, WRC-23, and ITU-R Study Groups, I recall the Gender Declaration approved in WRC-19. For ITU-R to reflect the commitment to gender equality and promote gender balance, the Member States and Regional Organizations are encouraged to support the inclusion of women in both their domestic and international processes and promote the equitable selection of women for roles that build expertise and expand opportunity.

Finally, our work in 2023 will end with the first session of CPM 27 that will organize the preparatory studies to be carried out by responsible and contributing groups of the ITU-R Study Groups in the next cycle.

Dear Friends,

The activities of the Study Groups and Working Parties is progressing as foreseen, with priority given to topics that are in support of WRC-23 Agenda Items.

Meetings in 2023 are scheduled to be held mostly in Geneva. Exceptions at this time are the Working Parties block of Study Group 1 that will be held in Greece, as well as next WP 5A and 5C that will be held in Mexico. Circular Letters have already been sent regarding these aspects.

Lastly, with regards to logistic issues related to the WRC,

I am happy to inform you that the Host Country website with logistic information about hotels, local transportation, security, will soon be made available for delegates.

As some of you may have noted, the 2023 UN Climate Change Conference, will also take place in Dubai during the period of WRC-23. However, the ITU was assured in its site visit that there is sufficient hotel availability and delegates will be able to secure hotel rooms for the WRC-23 and related events, since COP 28 will be held in “Dubai Expo City” which is far enough away from the World Trade Center.

To conclude,

I would like to praise your hard work throughout all this study period, your dedication, and your commitment to finding shared solutions that benefit all stakeholders, all regions, and nations.

I could not emphasize enough the importance of the Regional Organizations in forming a collective understanding and developing regional common proposals that are instrumental for broader international agreements.

I am confident that, by working together, we will rise to the occasion and make 2023 a very successful year.

I wish you a productive meeting and fruitful deliberations. Thank you very much.