

**Radio Radiocommunications Seminar for the Arab States
RRS-22-Arab States**

Online event

Opening Remarks

Sunday, 13 March 2022

**Mario Maniewicz,
Director, ITU Radiocommunication Bureau**

Good morning, good afternoon, and good evening to all participants from the Arab States, as well as to all those joining from other regions.

I would like to start by thanking the Arab Spectrum Management Group for their close collaboration with the ITU in the organization of this Seminar. ASMG has been a very active supporter of the work of the ITU throughout the years and we are highly appreciative of it.

I also thank all of you very much for being with us today. I am delighted to see such a significant number of participants of Arab countries in our ITU meetings and events. Around 140 participants have registered for this seminar from 28 countries, including 19 Arab States, and I am particularly happy to see that our friends from Lebanon have been able to join this event, after some difficulties in that regard that we managed to resolve.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

The digital environment has become unambiguously the new default.

Technology has changed radically, and so has the regulation in place.

Each day, the news highlight new technology trends in the field of telecommunications and ICT. These trends are considered and enabled as the ITU continuously develops and revises international standards and regulations for new radiocommunication technology.

The goal of the international framework is to facilitate equitable access of all countries to radio-frequency spectrum and the geostationary-satellite orbit, enable the rational use of these natural resources, facilitate the efficient and effective operation of all radiocommunication services, and finally assist in the prevention and resolution of cases of harmful interference among the radio services of different administrations.

To achieve these goals, several mechanisms are put in place.

One mechanism is by allocating a given frequency band to terrestrial and/or space radiocommunication services in the Table of Frequency Allocations of the Radio Regulations. This is done through the process of World Radiocommunication Conferences.

This seminar will review the modifications to the international treaty approved by WRC-19, as well as relevant ITU-R Resolutions, Recommendations, and best practices on the use of spectrum.

The seminar will also explore the preparatory process for WRC-23, and some of the challenging agenda items that are of interest to the Region.

Another mechanism that helps avoiding harmful interference among radio stations of different countries is the recording of radio-frequency assignments. In the case of space services, the ITU also records any associated orbital position in the geostationary-satellite orbit or any associated characteristics of satellites in other orbits.

Recording of a frequency assignment in the Master International Frequency Register (the “MIFR”) provides the right to international recognition. This means that other Administrations shall take them into account when licensing their radio systems, in accordance with their obligation to avoid causing harmful interference into the radio stations of other Member States.

This seminar will cover concepts related to the procedures for notification and recording of frequency assignments in the MIFR. It will include basic training on the tools developed by ITU for frequency notifications and technical examinations of terrestrial and space stations.

The tutorials will enable participants to gain experience with the software tools and the electronic publications made available by the Radiocommunication Bureau to facilitate and support the application of the Radio Regulations.

Dear Friends,

When I was elected the Director of the Radiocommunications Bureau, I committed to *Adopting a fair and balanced approach that gives a voice to all nations.*

My pledge was to guide the work of the BR based on the principles of inclusiveness, transparency, and efficiency. And this is what I have been doing for the last 3 years: promoting the participation of developing, least developed countries, and small island states in the work of the ITU-R; ensuring the procedures of the Radio Regulations are applied fairly and transparently; and implementing initiatives to increase the agility of BR internal working methods and processes.

This Regional Radiocommunication Seminar promotes the first principle of *inclusiveness.*

By enhancing their knowledge of the international Radio Regulations, Member States can more fully exercise their rights and obligations with respect to the use of spectrum and associated satellite orbital resources.

By examining the revisions to Radio Regulations and, consequently, the practical changes to ITU-R procedures and software, spectrum management experts keep up to date as radiocommunication services continue to evolve.

I sincerely hope you enjoy the Seminar, and above all, I hope your Administration can profit from the benefits of international radio regulation and standardization, and all people, from all countries, can enjoy radiocommunication services that are free from harmful interference.

Thank you very much.