

TDAG

Virtual event

Opening remarks

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Madam Chair,
Dear friends,

Good morning, good afternoon, and good evening to you all.

I thank Doreen for her kind invitation, as I am most pleased to address the Telecommunication Development Advisory Group today.

I would like to start with a quote from Henry Ford. He said: “Coming together is a beginning, keeping together is a process, working together is success.”

This famous quote reflects the steps the ITU-R and ITU-D have taken during the last years. And in doing so, we have observed the benefits of coming, keeping, and working together towards a common purpose.

COVID has shown us that to thrive in the digital economy, connectivity is key. And for the ITU to harness the power of connectivity and enable all nations and all people to have access to the digital world, we need to continue extracting the synergies of each Bureau and ensure we continue working together.

Dear Colleagues,

The ITU-R Sector produces ICT content that is of fundamental importance to the global management of radio-frequency spectrum and satellite orbits. We develop international regulations, recommendations, reports, and handbooks.

However, this is just a first step. Once the content has been produced, we want to make sure it reaches all four corners of the globe and forms the basis for the formulation of national and regional policies for the use of the radio spectrum.

Towards this end, during the last years, the Radiocommunications Bureau has been working to expand its outreach and communication activities. And much of this work has been done in collaboration with the Telecommunications Development Bureau.

To give you a concrete example, the ITU-R released the up-to-date Radio Regulations Article 5 Analyzer Tool. This is a tool that allows a country to extract their National Table of Frequency Allocations, based on the provisions of the Radio Regulations. Once the tool was developed, the next step was to introduce the software and its features to all countries.

To disseminate the outputs produced by the ITU-R Sector, and to cater for the needs and request of developing countries, every year the BR organizes two Regional Radiocommunication Seminars that complement the World Radiocommunications Seminar. In addition, the BR is always very pleased to contribute to initiatives organized by the BDT, such as the Policy and Regulation Initiative for Digital Africa" (PRIDA).

Another program that might be familiar to many of you is the Spectrum Management Training Program. The BR and the BDT have worked together to completely update this training program, which now includes WRC-19 decisions and updates from the 2020 Edition of the Radio Regulations.

As you can see, the Radiocommunications Bureau, in cooperation with the Development Bureau, have been working to support the ITU Members with the information and the tools needed to implement the international regulations and standards on spectrum management.

But our collaboration does not stop there. The BR has supported several other BDT initiatives, such as the i-CODI project, the REG4COVID platform, and the Economic Expert Roundtable.

Madam Chair,

Recently, I was entrusted to lead the secretariat's support to the Council Working Group on the Strategic and Financial Plans. The development of the draft ITU Strategic Plan for 2024 to 2027 provides us with a unique opportunity to receive inputs from our Member States, Sector Members, Academia, and above all, from the Advisory groups.

We certainly look forward to receiving ITU-D's contribution to the new Strategic Plan as well as your recommendations for the draft Operational Plan. I am confident that by developing an overarching plan for the Union we will be able to shape a more united and fit for purpose organization that will help us connect those that remain unconnected and ensure all can take part of the digital world.

Dear Friends,

As you know, the Radiocommunication Sector carries out studies and adopts recommendations on radiocommunication matters. It ensures the rational, equitable, efficient, and economical use of the radio-frequency spectrum by all radiocommunication services, including those using the geostationary-satellite or other satellite orbits.

On the other hand, the Telecommunications Development Sector fulfils the dual responsibility of the Union as a United Nations specialized agency and executing agency. ITU-D implements projects that facilitate and enhance telecommunications development by offering, organizing, and coordinating technical cooperation and assistance activities.

By acting within each Sector's sphere of competence, in close coordination, and bearing in mind the particular concerns of developing countries, both Sectors have been able to leverage their particular expertise to fulfil the purposes of the Union.

So let us continue the fruitful collaboration between our Sectors to achieve the ambitious goal of connecting the world and enabling a digital society and economy.

I wish you a very fruitful TDAG and the best of luck in your preparations for the WTDC.

Thank you very much.