

3rd CPG23 Meeting (CPG23-3)

Virtual event

18th May 2021

Opening Remarks

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Good morning, good afternoon, and good evening to all!

Let me start by thanking the CEPT for their kind invitation, and in particular to the CPG23 Chairman, Mr. Alexandre KHOLOD, for inviting me to address you in this opening of this 3rd meeting of the CPG23.

It is a pleasure for me to be talking to you today.

Firstly, I would like to acknowledge – once again – the valuable contribution of the Regional organizations, in general, and of CEPT, in particular, in supporting the work of the ITU-R and the important role you play in conducting the Regional preparation for WRC-23 and RA-23.

Having said that, I would like to take this opportunity to touch upon a few issues that I understand are of interest to the CEPT community.

Dear colleagues,

For over a year now, all our meetings and events have gone virtual. And during this challenging time, we have been making full use of available technological and human resources to ensure our core functions and services to Members are maintained.

We are striving to make virtual meetings as productive as possible and finding ways of enabling more offline discussions and progress between meetings.

The BR is offering full support in terms of documentation, additional meetings, modification to the meeting plan, and clarifications whenever they have been requested by the groups.

BR staff is also providing support to the increased number of Correspondence Groups created in the recent months. Towards this end, the ITU-R is very fortunate to count with the good and close cooperation of all Study Groups and Working Party chairs.

As I have reported to you recently, we have restored the holding of periodical meetings of Chairmen and Vice-Chairmen of the Radiocommunication Study Groups and Working Parties, or CVC meetings as we call it. We believe that restoring the group of ITU-R leadership will help the work of the study groups to progress smoothly.

We continue encouraging participants to understand the positions and views of others and to remain flexible to the maximum extent possible.

We count on the studies provided by CEPT countries to feed the development of the preparatory studies and draft CPM texts. By the middle of the year, the characteristics and parameters of service and applications will be provided. And learning from previous cycles, we know how relevant it is for countries and Regions to use these parameters to conduct sharing and compatibility studies.

We are confident that with your support and with your spirit of collaboration, the WRC process will continue advancing as planned – even in a context of virtual meetings, and even for those agenda items that by nature are more contentious.

Regarding physical meetings, we had been very much looking forward to going back to face-to-face meetings in the second half of 2021.

However, at this stage, this seems unlikely. There are still travel limitations in place, including company policies, as well as physical distance constraints that prevent us from hosting large meetings.

So, for 2021, the meeting schedule of the study groups will remain stable and virtual. No major changes are expected towards the end of the year.

As you know, the last RAG meeting concluded on April 1st, and I bring to your attention some of the outcomes of the meeting.

The RAG has invited the identification of possible options to improve the ITU-R preparatory studies in case virtual meetings would have to continue in 2022 – which we hope will not be the case.

It also encouraged Administrations, Sector Members and the six regional telecommunications organizations to actively work towards ensuring the participation of women in ITU-R meetings at all levels and to nominate and support women for leadership roles, in order to foster gender equality, equity and parity in the work of the ITU-R.

Dear Friends,

Within the regional organizations the work on different WRC-23 agenda items seems to be progressing well. Similar to what is happening within CPG project teams, preliminary views are being developed for several agenda items. Obviously, some discussions on more complex subjects are moving slower than others. However, this is no different from past study cycles.

We will be able to follow up more closely on the progress of the preparatory studies at the ITU Inter-regional workshops on WRC-23 Preparation. The first of these workshops has been planned for the end of November-beginning of December this year, immediately after the meetings of all the concerned ITU-R groups.

This first Workshop will review the progress made so far in ITU-R and at the regional and/or national levels. It should also provide opportunities for other international organizations and the main stakeholders to provide their views and expectations on relevant WRC-23 agenda items and topics.

As some of you may know, the United Arab Emirates has informed us of its readiness to host the WRC-23 from 20 November to 15 December 2023, preceded by the 2023 Radiocommunication Assembly and followed by the CPM27-1 as it has been customary. The three events would take place in either Abu Dhabi or Dubai.

We are very grateful for the offer of the UAE, and we await with high expectations the opportunity of being there by the end of 2023.

This schedule offers an opportunity to shift the planned dates of the second session of the CPM one month forward, provided that there would be an offer to host this event outside Geneva - since the CICG is only available at the end of March-beginning of April 2023.

As you can see, Mr. Chairman, we are fully committed to keeping the work toward the WRC-23 on track and holding the Conference on schedule, and we count on the highly competent experts of CEPT countries to support us in this process.

Before I end my remarks, I would like to reiterate my availability and that of my staff to provide you with any support you may need throughout the study cycle. So, please feel free to contact me anytime.

With that, Mr. Chairman, I thank you once again, and I wish you a productive meeting.