

## **4th India Spectrum Management Conference 2024 (ISMC-24)**

New Delhi, India

### **Chief Guest Speech**

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Excellencies,  
Distinguished guests,  
Ladies and Gentlemen,

Good morning.

It is a pleasure to address you at this 4th India Spectrum Management Conference.

First, let me start by recognizing the valuable contribution of the ITU-APT Foundation of India in supporting the work of the ITU. During its more than 20 years of existence, the foundation has encouraged individuals and organizations involved in the ICT sector to engage in the activities of the ITU-R, and in the WRC process. Your continuous commitment is very much appreciated.

Dear colleagues,

During the last years, more and more people have been using and deploying radiocommunication systems. But this increased demand requires that effective spectrum management processes be implemented.

As you know, World Radiocommunication Conferences review, and, if necessary, revise the Radio Regulations, the international treaty governing the use of the radio-frequency spectrum and the geostationary-satellite and non-geostationary-satellite orbits.

To give you an idea of the dimension of the conference, WRC-23 was attended by almost 4000 participants from 163 Member States and more than 150 entities. It considered over 6000 proposals to update the Radio Regulations.

Let me briefly mention some of the key outcomes from WRC-23.

The conference allocated additional frequency bands for International Mobile Telecommunications (IMT) between 3300 MHz and 10.5 GHz in various countries and regions. These bands will be essential for the expansion of 4G and 5G services as well as the future development of 6G technologies.

In the 6 GHz band, WRC-23 adopted a balanced approach between licensed and unlicensed uses, giving the flexibility for national and regional decisions on the designation of the band for RLANs or IMT.

WRC-23 also allocated the band 470-694 MHz, or parts of it, for the mobile services.

Decisions were made to enhance the capabilities of satellite communications and open new opportunities for the expansion of satellite-based services and applications, including telecommunications, navigation, and environmental monitoring.

The Radiocommunication Bureau has published the 2024 edition of the Radio Regulations. The publication is available in all the six languages of the Union, and I invite you to download it free of charge from the ITU webpage.

The bureau is in the process of updating its software applications to support member states in the implementation of the updated Radio Regulations that will come into force in January 2025.

We are delighted to note that member States have started to implement WRC-23 outcomes by way of revising their national regulatory framework.

Towards this end, the Radiocommunication Bureau has held a series of Regional Radiocommunication Seminars and National Table of Frequency Allocation Workshops to assist member states in implementing the revised Radio Regulations within their countries and regions efficiently.

Dear Participants,

Looking forward, WRC-27 is tasked to find solutions for 19 agenda items, out of which 80 % are related to space and science services.

One topic of great interest is direct-to-device communications between space stations and IMT user equipment to expand the reach of terrestrial networks. The conference will consider additional spectrum allocation to satellite services for non-terrestrial networks.

Another topic is space sustainability. WRC-27 will consider equitable access to frequency bands of the FSS.

The Conference will also deal with spectrum requirements for science services which have become increasingly important in tackling climate change.

Finally, WRC-27 will look far beyond the Earth. It will be the first conference considering spectrum for lunar communications.

The four-year study cycle in preparation for WRC-27 has already begun.

ITU-R Study Groups and Working parties are working towards the end of the year deadline to provide technical and operational characteristics, methodologies, and any associated protection criteria relevant to their incumbent services to be used for sharing and compatibility studies.

The study period will also see the development of recommendations, reports and handbooks on radiocommunication matters, such as the satellite component of IMT-2020, the IMT-2030 standard, popularly referred to as 6G, and non-geostationary and geostationary satellite technologies.

I encourage all of you to participate in the development of these technical studies. They will feed the draft CPM text and will be the basis for the ultimate decisions that will be taken at WRC-27.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

Radiocommunications play a critical role in shaping India's digital future.

The decisions of WRC-23 will influence India's telecommunications landscape, particularly in the areas of 5G, 6G and satellite technologies.

The preparatory studies for WC-27 and the work of ITU-R Study Groups and Working Parties will contribute to the development of India's digital and space economies.

I invite you to embark with us on this journey, further contribute to the work of ITU-R, and help shape a more inclusive, connected and innovative future for all!

I wish you a productive meeting and fruitful deliberations.

Thank you very much.