6th International Conference organized by the
National Institute of Telecommunications of Republic of Poland

Virtual event

Opening Remarks

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Excellencies,

Ladies and Gentlemen,

Good morning, good afternoon, good evening to all those that joined us today.

On behalf of the ITU, it is a great pleasure to welcome you all to this very special event.

This year marks 100 years since the Republic of Poland became a Member of the International Telecommunications Union.

I congratulate the Government of Poland on this special occasion and on the significant progress of the country in the recent years on the field of digital transformation, including effective deployment of wireless technologies.

Ladies and gentlemen,

The focus of this conference is directly linked to the core work of the ITU.

The International Telecommunication Union, the United Nations specialized agency for information and communication technologies, is committed to connecting all the world's people – wherever they live and whatever their means.

In the ITU Radiocommunications Sector our mission is to ensure radio frequencies and any associated orbits are used rationally, efficiently, and economically, and countries or groups of countries may have equitable access to orbits and frequencies. And our primary objective is to ensure radiocommunication services can operate efficiently and effectively free from harmful interference.

To accomplish our mission and objectives, we develop and update international regulations and standards on the use of radio-frequency spectrum and satellite orbits.

The allocation of these natural limited resources is fundamental in the development of radiocommunication services, including mobile services such as 5G and 6G. Global harmonization creates economies of scale, thereby enabling affordable devices and services and international roaming.

Towards this end, the last world Radiocommunications conference, WRC-19, identified around 17 GHz of additional spectrum for International Mobile Telecommunications in the mmWave bands. Spectrum previously identified for IMT, can be used by any mobile technology such as 3G, 4G, 5G, and even 6G in the future.

Moreover, on February this year the ITU published Recommendation ITU-R M.2150 with detailed specifications of the radio interfaces for IMT-2020, or 5G. The recommendation currently contains 3 radio interface technologies. Future revisions will accommodate improvements to the standards, as well as the possibility of introducing new IMT-2020 radio interfaces.

Regarding IMT towards 2030 and beyond (what might become 6G in the future), we are currently in very early stages of the standardization process, defining technology trends, anticipating new use cases for IMT, and new technical enablers necessary in the 2030 timeframe.

In 2023, the next World Radiocommunication Conference will consider additional bands for mobile broadband, including IMT, below 1 GHz and between 1 and 10 GHz. Currently we are in the middle of the preparatory process for WRC-23, and ITU-R study groups are conducting sharing and compatibility studies to enable the development of new technologies while ensuring the protection of existing services from harmful interference.

Dear colleagues,

5G, referred to by the ITU as IMT-2020, promises to open a new era, supporting applications such as smart homes and buildings, smarter and cleaner cities, self-driving cars and other intelligent transport systems, 3D video, work and play in the cloud, remote medical services, virtual and augmented reality, and massive machine-to-machine communications for industry automation and manufacturing.

Nevertheless, the introduction of 5G has generated some public concern about the potential health risks associated with the use of mobile phones and living near base stations.

Despite extensive studies into the health effects of mobile phones over the last two or three decades, there is no indication of an increased health risk when exposed to electromagnetic fields below the levels specified by international bodies.

Having said this, the ITU does not set maximum levels of exposure of the public to electromagnetic fields. These levels are set by competent international bodies. ITU Recommendations reference standards and guidelines on the maximum levels of exposure to EMF and provide recommendations on the means for measuring and monitoring electromagnetic fields and mitigating exposure. We also publish an EMF Guide and app in 6 official languages.

While most countries draw on the ITU Recommendations, they are sovereign and set their own national standards for exposure to electromagnetic fields.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

As you can see, the ITU has been actively supporting its Members to understand and navigate the opportunities and challenges that come with wireless technologies and digital transformation. I invite you to continue participating in the ITU process of developing international regulations and standards and contributing to the widespread of wireless technologies.

Finally, I take this opportunity to bring to your attention the three major conferences that ITU will hold in 2022. The World Telecommunication Standardization Assembly, the World Telecommunication Development Conference, and our highest policy-making body, the Plenipotentiary Conference of 2022. I hope to see those that will attend in person.

Once again, we are honored to celebrate with you this anniversary. And we truly look forward to our continuous collaboration with Poland in the several activities of the three Sectors of the ITU.

Thank you very much.