

## **6th MENA Spectrum Management Conference**

*Tunis, Tunisia*

***Keynote speech (delivered remotely)***

*30 June 2022*

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Ms Olfa Jammeli, Director General, ANF Tunisia,

Mr Tariq Al-Awadi, Chairman, ASMG,

I would like to start by thanking Forum Global for the invitation to participate in the 6<sup>th</sup> MENA Spectrum Management Conference. Unfortunately, I am unable to join you physically as the ITU Radio Regulation Board is meeting this week in Geneva, but I am happy to be able to join you online.

I would like to take this opportunity to update you on the progress of the work of the ITU towards WRC-23 and to touch upon topics that will be explored further during the next 2 days.

I would say that we have now reached an important stage of the WRC-23 preparation. ITU-R Working Parties and Task Group are completing the technical studies for each Agenda Item and preparing text for the inclusion in the Draft CPM Report.

I am very pleased that the ITU-R has also returned to physical meetings with remote participation. We have taken all the precautions to safeguard the health of those on premisses as well as to ensure the full and equitable participation of those attending the meeting remotely. This will surely help us advance the work.

As you know, the process that takes place within the ITU-R Study Groups, Working Parties and Task Group initiates with the examination of contributions from the Membership, followed by sharing and compatibility studies that result in:

- 1- Working Documents, draft ITU-R Recommendations and Reports,
- 2- And the Draft CPM Report.

The CPM text will summarize the results of studies. It will provide methods with possible technical and regulatory solutions to satisfy the WRC-23 agenda items and topics. And most importantly, it will be used as the basis for future decisions taken at WRC-23.

Dear Colleagues,

WRC-23 has an extensive agenda with 19 specific items and 11 standing agenda items, covering issues of the Fixed, Mobile, Broadcasting, Aeronautical, Maritime, Science and Satellite services.

Since I will not have time to delve into all agenda items, I will focus on those that will be further discussed in other sessions of this event.

Starting with the fixed, mobile, and broadcasting issues, Agenda Item 1.2, will consider the identification of several bands for IMT. More specifically, Region 1 will consider the identification of the 3.3 to 3.4 GHz band and the upper 6 GHz band for IMT.

WP-5D has just concluded its meeting and they continued to compile the working documents on sharing and compatibility studies of IMT systems in all frequency bands listed under Resolution 245. For the 3.3 to 3.4 GHz band, specific Attachments to the working document on sharing and compatibility are being developed for the incumbent radiolocation service and fixed service.

A similar approach is being taken for the 6 GHz band, where specific Attachments are being developed for fixed and fixed satellite services, as well as for space research service and space operation service. I understand there is

much debate on the use of the upper and lower 6 GHz band around the world with regards to the use of the band for licensed and unlicensed services.

Moving on to Agenda Item 1.3, the conference will consider the mobile allocation of the C-Band in Region 1. Several countries are currently using or considering the use of this band for the provision of connectivity to verticals, while other countries strongly rely on C-band for satellite communications. Since this is not the first time that a WRC considers the C-band, WP 5A has reviewed the existing ITU-R Recommendations and Reports addressing coexistence of Mobile services with Fixed Satellite Services and Fixed Services.

Agenda Item 1.5 refers to the UHF band and considers on one hand the expansion of mobile coverage, due to the favorable propagation characteristics in the frequency bands below 1 GHz, and on the other hand, the current and future use of the band for terrestrial television broadcasting services.

TG 6/1 is the responsible group for this Agenda Item, and they are developing working documents on the spectrum use and spectrum needs of existing services, as well as sharing and compatibility studies in the band 470-694 MHz, and the preliminary draft CPM text.

While several countries in the Middle East use very little broadcasting services and would prefer an identification of the band for IMT, Digital Terrestrial Television has only recently been deployed in many African countries which might prefer a no change to the current allocations. It will be paramount to go beyond these differences and find a solution that addresses both needs.

Moving on to the satellite issues, I highlight the Agenda Items dealing with Earth Stations in Motion, or ESIMs.

The development of ESIMs addresses the growing need for broadband connectivity access, regardless of location. Agenda item 1.15 considers the operation of earth stations on aircraft and vessels communicating with geostationary space stations in the fixed-satellite service. At the last WP 4A meeting, important consideration has been given to the compatibility and protection of FSS, including Appendix 30B allotment and frequency assignments.

Agenda item 1.16 also covers aeronautical and maritime ESIMs, but now communicating with non-geostationary fixed satellite stations. In this case, both the satellite and the earth station are moving, which imposes a higher degree of complexity to the studies that are being conducted in WP 4A.

Agenda item 1.17 refers to inter-satellite links which are used to relay data to and from the Earth using a space station that is operating at an orbital altitude greater than that of the non-GSO user space station generating the data. This enhances the availability and value of data for low latency applications.

Last but not least, is the standing Agenda Item 7 that is continuously considering changes on advance publication, coordination, notification and recording procedures for frequency assignments pertaining to satellite networks. The goal of this Agenda Item is to improve the current procedures and facilitate the rational, efficient, and economical use of radio frequencies and any associated orbits.

These are just a few of the many important topics that will be covered in WRC-23. You can follow the status of the studies for each agenda item in the ITU website for WRC-23 that is now available. Moreover, the 2nd ITU Inter-regional Workshops on WRC-23 Preparation will take place by the end of this year and you are all very welcome to join.

Finally, this MENA conference will consider “the path beyond 5G”. I would like to share with you that the ITU-R WP 5D has just approved a preliminary draft new Report on Future Technology Trends of Terrestrial IMT systems towards 2030 and Beyond for further consideration at the Study Group level.

This report highlights potential technology enablers which could be applied in the future for the development of IMT systems for 2030 and beyond. It includes technologies for AI-native communications, for integrated sensing and communication, to support converge of communication and computing architecture, technologies for device-to-device communications, to efficiently utilize spectrum, to enhance energy efficiency and lower power consumption, as well as technologies to enhance the radio interface and the radio network per se.

Dear Friends,

The ITU and more specifically the World Radiocommunication Conference is the main stage for spectrum related decisions. I invite you to come to the ITU, share the positions and needs of your Administration, Region, or company.

And while doing so, consider a broader solution that addresses the needs, not only of your specific administration or company, but also that of other Middle East and North African countries. I am confident that we can find technical solutions applicable across the whole Region.

I wish you a very successful and productive conference.

Thank you very much.