

Council Expert Group on Decision 482

ITU Geneva, Switzerland

Welcome Remarks

February 10, 2025

Mario Maniewicz
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Madam Chair,

Ladies and gentlemen,

Esteemed colleagues,

It is my pleasure to welcome you to this third meeting of the Council Expert Group on Decision 482. This meeting holds great significance, as it represents your opportunity to refine and consolidate your recommendations to the 2025 session of the Council.

The strong engagement witnessed in the virtual presentation of the documents from the secretariat on 14 January, which gathered over 80 participants, underscores the importance of this process and the dedication of all stakeholders involved.

As you are well aware, satellite communications are experiencing unprecedented growth, particularly with the rapid expansion of non-geostationary orbit (non-GSO) systems.

These advancements are revolutionizing global connectivity, offering new opportunities for innovation, economic development, and bridging the digital divide. The increasing involvement of new players and emerging economies in the space sector underscores the necessity of ensuring an effective and

adaptable regulatory framework. However, this progress also brings significant challenges, particularly in managing frequency assignments, preventing spectrum congestion and ensuring the long-term sustainability of orbital resources.

To keep pace with these changes, the ITU must not only enhance its regulatory processes and optimize the management of its resources, but also strengthen its cost recovery mechanism. The growing complexity of satellite filings, coupled with the surge in non-GSO satellite deployments, has placed increased demands on ITU's human and software resources. Ensuring efficient and transparent processing of satellite notices is paramount for proper frequency coordination, good spectrum management and equitable access to these critical resources.

In this context, you now have before you a comprehensive review of Council Decision 482, as per your request to the secretariat during your last meeting in November 2024. This document contains key proposals designed to improve cost recovery mechanisms associated with satellite regulatory procedures. It is essential to collectively develop a fair and sustainable financial model that aligns with ITU's principles and serves the needs of all stakeholders.

In addition to these proposals, I would like to thank the members for the six valuable contributions they submitted. These contributions reinforce the importance of collaborative efforts in shaping a robust and inclusive final recommendation. Your discussions over the next two days will be instrumental in finalizing a revised Decision 482 that ensures financial sustainability for ITU while addressing the evolving landscape of satellite communications.

The ITU Secretariat remains committed to supporting this process and will be available to provide expertise and clarification throughout your discussions. I encourage all participants to share their insights, and work towards consensus-driven solutions.

Thank you for your dedication to this crucial work. I look forward to productive discussions and a successful conclusion to this important phase of the work of the Expert Group.

Thank you.