

# **High-Frequency Co-ordination Conference (HFCC)**

**Abu Dhabi, United Arab Emirates**

13 February 2025

Pre-recorded video message

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Ladies and Gentlemen,

On behalf of the International Telecommunication Union, it is my great pleasure to address the A25 Conference organized by the High Frequency Coordination Conference, the Arab States Broadcasting Union and the Asia-Pacific Broadcasting Union.

ITU and HFCC have a long history of partnership and collaboration in matters related to the coordination of frequencies used in short-wave broadcasting.

This partnership and collaboration continue to be a cornerstone in the promotion of efficient use of the high frequency broadcasting spectrum and the improvement of HF broadcast reception worldwide.

HFCC is a valuable ITU Sector Member. Its contribution to the development of an effective system of frequency management for Shortwave Broadcasting is highly appreciated by the ITU Membership.

Dear colleagues,

Shortwave radio has played a crucial role in global communication for decades and it remains important today.

It is one of the most effective means of long-distance communication, especially in remote or rural areas. During disasters, or extreme weather events, shortwave radio is often the only means of communication when power grids, internet, or mobile networks fail.

The resilience of shortwave radio and its ability to reach people makes it relevant in the 21st century. Shortwave Radio has been constantly developing and improving. Over the years we have seen its digitization, in particular, through the Digital Radio Mondiale (DRM).

DRM provides superior audio quality, reduced interference reception, and the ability to transmit multimedia content such as text, images, and emergency alerts. Digital transmissions allow efficient use of the spectrum and enables multiple broadcasts on the same frequency. By integrating digital technology, shortwave radio can continue to serve as a reliable, cost-effective, and global communication tool.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

Today we celebrate the annual World Radio Day. This year's theme is Radio and Climate Change.

The choice of this theme is very relevant. Climate change is seen as an existential threat to mankind and demands immediate action from governments, organizations, and individuals.

Education and awareness are crucial in combating climate change. The power of Radio lies in its ability to inform and engage listeners in this topic through interviews with experts, comprehensive information and compelling storytelling. In this respect, the role of HF Radio is very prominent. It reaches millions of people, especially in developing nations and underserved regions, acting as a bridge to information and education.

It also empowers countries and communities to take appropriate action before, during and after natural disasters.

In regions prone to climate-related disasters, radio becomes instrumental in broadcasting early warnings, evacuation procedures, and real-time information on life-saving humanitarian assistance.

Unlike Internet-based media, Shortwave Radio does not require high-speed connections, nor expensive digital devices. A simple battery or solar-powered radio can provide a lifeline of information to communities without reliable electricity or internet access.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

To facilitate frequency management of Shortwave Radio, the ITU has developed the online High-Frequency Broadcasting tool. This tool offers users the access to HFBC publications and reference data, allowing to generate and validate HFBC requirements before submission to the ITU.

That tool is part of a wider web-based platform related to terrestrial broadcasting. It permits to consult databases, access publications, and perform calculations for broadcasting stations.

By utilizing the platform, broadcasters and administrations can efficiently manage their HFBC requirements, ensure their compliance with Radio Regulations and optimize the coordination process globally.

The eHFBC platform and its improvements are regularly presented to your conference by Mr Hakim Ebdelli from ITU's Radiocommunication Bureau.

Dear participants,

The impact of the ITU/HFCC partnership is profound. It enables a more informed, entertained, and connected world.

As we look to the future, ITU is committed to continuing this fruitful partnership and to set the stage for the next wave of innovations in shortwave broadcasting.

To conclude, I would like to congratulate you on your 70<sup>th</sup> meeting and thank the Arab States Broadcasting Union (ASBU) and the Asia-Pacific Broadcasting Union (ABU) for partnering with the HFCC to hold these series of important conferences.

I wish you fruitful deliberations.