

ITU World Radiocommunication Seminar (WRS-24)

CICG Geneva, Switzerland

Opening Remarks

2 December 2024

Mario Maniewicz
Director, Radiocommunication Bureau

Distinguished participants,
Ladies and gentlemen,

It is a pleasure to welcome you to the World Radiocommunication Seminar 2024. I am delighted to see over 900 participants (both in-person and online) registered for this Seminar, reflecting the growing interest in the work of the Radiocommunication Sector.

Dear Colleagues,

Meeting the ever-increasing demand for spectrum and, in the case of satellite services, the associated orbital resources, is a significant challenge. New applications are generating greater interest in, and demand for, the limited radio frequency spectrum. This increased demand necessitates both the development of more spectrally efficient radio systems and networks, but also more effective spectrum management processes. Effective management of radio frequencies is crucial for the seamless operation of countless technologies in today's interconnected world.

The allocation of radio frequencies – the sharing and harmonization of their use for different purposes – is done through the Radio Regulations. These regulations aim to ensure that the radio-frequency spectrum and associated satellite orbits are used rationally, efficiently and economically, and to prevent harmful interference between various radio services so that countries or groups of countries may have equitable access to those orbits and frequencies, taking into account the special needs of the developing countries and the geographical situation of particular countries. The regular review and updating of the provisions of the Radio Regulations, along with compliance to them, ensures

that this limited and valuable resource is shared among countries and radio services worldwide.

Distinguished guests,

Exactly one year ago, the World Radiocommunication Conference reviewed and revised this global treaty. The decisions of that conference paved the way for the evolution and expansion of both terrestrial and space-based radiocommunication technologies.

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

Since then, the Radiocommunication Bureau has been preparing to implement the decisions of the Conference, which enter into force on the 1st of January 2025.

Last August we published the 2024 version of the Radio Regulations - which can be downloaded free of charge from the ITU webpage in all six languages of the Union.

We are in the process of publishing the 2024 edition of the Maritime Manual, which is an important publication used by the maritime sector to enhance the safety of life at sea.

We have been updating the various BR software applications and databases to reflect the modifications in the 2024 edition of the Radio Regulations.

You'll learn about all this and more in the next few days.

Dear Colleagues,

In addition to the Radio Regulations, the ITU also develops international standards that ensure radiocommunication services adhere to minimum technical requirements and operate without interference.

As regulations and standards evolve, it is the role of ITU to disseminate information about the international framework that governs radiocommunication systems, and the rights and obligations that derive from these norms.

This enables Administrations to obtain and maintain rights to use spectrum, ensuring they can operate their radiocommunication networks without causing or suffering any harmful interference.

To this effect, the ITU organizes World Radiocommunication Seminars (WRS) on a biennial basis, in complement to the cycle of Regional Radiocommunication Seminars (RRS).

In 2024, the ITU also organized workshops in each one of the Radio Regulations Regions designed to assist Administrations in developing their National Table of Frequency Allocations.

Dear Participants,

This World Radiocommunication Seminar will deal with the use of the radio-frequency spectrum and, for space services, the associated satellite orbits, as well as with the application of the provisions of the ITU Radio Regulations.

The plenary sessions will take place today and tomorrow and are open to everyone, whether members of the ITU or not. We will cover basic concepts related to the management of the radio spectrum at the global level.

The sessions will also include a review of the ITU Radio Regulations, presentations on the international regulatory framework for terrestrial and space radiocommunication services, as well as an introduction to the activities and work of the ITU-R Study Groups, the Radio Regulations Board and outcomes of the 2023 World Radiocommunication Conference (WRC-23).

Starting from Wednesday, Space and Terrestrial Workshops will be offered exclusively to ITU members. These workshops will provide basic training on the use of software tools developed by ITU for notifications and technical examinations of filings for frequency assignments.

The hands-on exercises will enable you to master both the procedures and the software tools that we are using to process your filings.

Furthermore, later today we will host a session of the Network of Women for WRC-27 (NOW4WRC27). I invite you to join this initiative, which is aimed at improving gender balance in the ITU Radiocommunication Sector and in the ICT industry in general.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

We have a busy agenda ahead of us – I hope you all will enjoy this World Radiocommunication Seminar.

As you know, the new ITU-R study cycle is already underway. ITU-R Study groups are working on their preparatory studies for the agenda items of WRC-27. I invite all of you who are interested in Radiocommunication related subjects, to engage and participate actively in the work of the ITU-R.

For those of you who are not yet members of the ITU, I invite you to become a member, whether a Sector Member, Associate or Academia.

Together we can enable robust radiocommunication ecosystems that bring tangible benefits to all.

Thank you very much for your attention.