

**World Radiocommunication Conference 2019
(WRC-19)**

Sharm el-Sheikh, Egypt

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Welcome Remarks

**Mario Maniewicz
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Mr President,
Mr Prime-Minister,
Mr Minister,
Mr Chairman,
Mr Secretary-General,
Deputy Secretary-General, Directors of TSB and BDT,
Excellencies,
Distinguished delegates,
Ladies and gentlemen,

It is my great honour and pleasure to welcome you to the 2019 World Radiocommunication Conference in this beautiful city of Sharm-El-Sheikh. I take this opportunity to thank the Administration of Egypt for hosting us today.

Being in one of the cradles of civilization leads us to reflect upon Egypt's legacy in terms of communications and technology.

Ancient Egyptians communicated through writing, drawing, pictures, and art. The hieroglyphic symbols recorded much of their history, their rituals, ceremonies, prophecies, and even their everyday life. Currently we post on "social media walls" images of important dates, and celebrations, of important moments in our lives, we post about everything from our political preferences to our favourite food!

In ancient times, information encoded using hieroglyphics format was then inscribed on papyrus and transmitted to others by hand. Over the centuries, humankind has continually evolved its formats and media for the storage of data arriving at today's various electronic formats of audio, video and image files. Transmission of information also evolved considerably developing into the communications systems we know today.

We are fortunate to have inherited such rich history, culture, and technology from ancient Egypt. Even more so, we are fortunate to be in a land where time is measured in millennia to make decisions that will affect the future generations and the future of our planet.

We are now moving into an era of both digital and environmental transformation. Billions of people and devices are connected to the Internet increasing the efficiency of industries and companies. However, half of the world is still unconnected. Moreover, economic development of nations has come at a price of increased carbon emissions, climate change, and related natural disasters.

On the agenda of WRC-19 are radiocommunications services that have the potential to address all these pressing issues. We will discuss during these next four weeks the availability and conditions for the use of spectrum for land mobile and fixed services; broadband applications for the mobile service; satellite services; science services; maritime, aeronautical and amateur services; as well as determine the draft and preliminary agendas of the WRC-23 and WRC-27, respectively. All of these decisions, including the agendas of future conferences, have the potential to impact our society, the global economy and the environment.

While there is great focus on the innovations brought by new technologies, such as IMT-2020, HAPS and non-GSO satellites, we must make sure that we take decisions that extend the benefits of technological advancement to all the world's citizens.

The WRC will update the Radio Regulations, taking into account that this treaty should:

- Ensure the rational, equitable, efficient and economical use of the radio-frequency spectrum and satellite-orbit resources
- Ensure operations of radiocommunication systems free of harmful interference
- Ensure necessary performance and quality in operating radiocommunication systems
- Create regulatory certainty for trillions of dollars of combined investment and economic activity that play an increasingly important role in the development of our societies
- Promote regional and global spectrum harmonization that are essential to creating economies of scale, interoperability and enabling global services and roaming

I cannot stress enough the relevance of the Radio Regulations. This international treaty on the use of the radio spectrum and satellite orbits has been updated for 113 years, countries adopt it and respect it, and it provides the regulatory stability for the sector.

More than 3500 participants representing 160 Members States and 130 international organizations and Sectors members have registered to this Conference. All with a similar goal of rationalizing and harmonizing the use of spectrum toward the mutual benefit of all.

The task ahead of us is huge, but the goals are very clear: to change the international regulations in such a way that radio technologies will improve the wellbeing of current and future generations. The challenges we face in this transforming world calls for cooperation, and the employment of all services and technologies available to us.

The task ahead of you is also one of major importance. After four intense years of studies and preparation, we have arrived at this crucial decision-making phase. The Radio Regulations are made by you, for you. Be assured that the ITU staff is ready to provide you with all the necessary assistance to support your work, but the success of this conference is in your hands.

Before I conclude, allow me to congratulate Dr. Amr Badawi for his designation as Chairman of WRC-19, as well all Vice-Chairs. I am confident that during these four weeks they will guide our work and lead us to a successful outcome.

Once again, I sincerely thank Egypt for hosting the WRC-19. And may the land of the Nile inspire us to regulate technology towards making this planet a safer and better place for all people of all nations.

I wish you a very successful Conference and a pleasant stay in Egypt.