

2nd meeting of Study Group 3 in Study Period 2019-2023

Virtual event

2 July 2021

Opening Speech

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Mme. Chair,

Dear Delegates,

Good morning, good afternoon, and good evening to you all.

It is my pleasure to welcome you to the 2nd meeting of Study Group 3 in this study cycle. While virtual meetings have become the norm for all Study Groups in 2020 and 2021, we hope that this will not be the case for 2022.

As I usually do, let me start by expressing my gratitude to the chairman, Mrs. Carol Wilson, for continuing to lead this Group, as well as my sincere appreciation to the Vice-Chairmen of Study Group 3 for their support.

I would also like to thank the Chairmen of Working Parties 3J, 3K, 3L and 3M, Prof Carlo Riva, Mr Paul McKenna, Mr Christopher Behm and Ms Clare Allen. I notice that Ms Allen was elected as Working Party 3M Chairman during the last Study Group 3 meeting, and I would like to use this opportunity to congratulate her and wish her all success in her new position.

The output of Study Group 3 continues to be of considerable importance to the entire international radiocommunication industry (technical and academic) and once more, the P-series Recommendations remains the ITU-R series of recommendations with the highest reported number of downloads from the ITU-R website as was again reported to RAG-21. This is indeed a feather in the cap of Study Group 3 and its working parties.

Dear friends,

The world pandemic has made an undeniable impact on everybody, and the Study Groups of ITU-R are no exception. While all meetings have been convened as virtual events, delegates had to contend with different working methods and reduced working hours, but also working hours that were always inconvenient for many of you.

Working parties 3J, 3K and 3M were the first, and the only, ITU-R working parties to-date which convened their meetings in April 2021 during night-time hours in Geneva, in an effort to recognise and share the burden that delegates from other time zones had to bear until now. This measure has solicited some administrations and sector members to contact me, expressing their gratitude for this decision and the efforts.

While delegates were very efficient in participating in virtual meetings, it is recognised that this way of working has proven for many of you as less effective than in-person meetings. It was also noted that the lack of opportunities for informal discussions among delegates, further contributed to this lack of effectiveness. Another consequence of reduced meeting hours was the need to undertake a large part of the activities and work during the intersessional period. This work was performed by no fewer than 33 correspondence groups to the Study Group 3 Working Parties, some of which had been created specifically for this purpose.

Between the August 2020 block of working party meetings and this block of meetings, these correspondence groups have convened 72 online discussion sessions of more than 160 hours, some of which were again organised during night-time hours in Geneva. I wish to thank the chairmen of these correspondence groups, as well as the participants of course, for their tireless and considerable efforts.

Dear colleagues,

As identified at the start of the study cycle, the working parties of Study Group 3 have been tasked to provide essential support on the issue of radio wave propagation prediction to many ITU-R Working Parties in their preparation for WRC-23. Once more you have delivered on the call for this support. Guidance was provided in numerous liaison statements, and revisions to recommendations were provided, where appropriate, in order for the responsible working parties to perform the necessary sharing and compatibility studies. Working Parties 3K, 3L and 3M have extended the frequency ranges of validity and applicable scenarios of their radio wave propagation prediction methods to cover new and higher frequency bands as specified in WRC-23 agenda items. Furthermore, Working Party 3J also extended the applicability of radiometeorological models and fundamental principles on which these methods are based.

I would like to recognise and thank those administrations and organisations which provided and still plan to provide extremely valuable measurement data and contributions that made these improvements possible. The world pandemic severely curtailed your efforts to provide these measurements and that made those contributions that were submitted, all the more appreciated.

As I mentioned during your last meeting, I need to underline again that the work of Study Group 3 and its Working Parties is very important in the scientific and academic communities, and that administrations and operators rely on the accuracy of Study Group 3 radio wave propagation prediction methods in their coordination efforts, network design and optimisation. Ultimately, your work enables the Union and its members to continue to use the valuable and scarce radio frequency spectrum and orbital positions in an efficient manner.

Once more, I note with satisfaction that new and updated software implementations and validation examples of methods in the P-series Recommendations and other data resources have been provided. These have proven to be extremely useful in the radiocommunications community and these resources and the added value you provide in these efforts continue to be widely appreciated and recognized.

The challenges of the world pandemic and obstacles notwithstanding, with your support, we are on our path to achieve widely accepted agreements on various WRC-23 agenda items and in the preparatory work. May the example of your constructive and cooperative spirit inspire the other working parties to achieve success in an equal manner in this new study cycle.

The staff of the Bureau will continue to actively support your efforts in building a sustainable ecosystem for your efforts in enhancing the radio wave propagation prediction methods and models.

Thank you for your attention. I wish you a very successful meeting.