

**3rd meeting of Study Group 6 (SG 6)
in Study Period 2019-2023**

Virtual Meeting

26 March 2021

Opening Remarks

**Mario Maniewicz
Director, Radiocommunication Bureau**

Mr. Chairman,

Dear friends and colleagues,

Good morning, afternoon, or evening to you all. It is my pleasure to welcome you to the third meeting of Study Group 6 in this study period. This is also the second time that we have a virtual meeting of Study Group 6 under this exceptional circumstance. Let me start by expressing my appreciation to the chairman, Mr. Yukihrio Nishida and the Vice-Chairs of Study Group 6.

I would like to thank you all and in particular the Chairmen of SG6 working parties and task group, Mr. Nafez, Mr. Quested, Mr. Gardiner and Mr. Pastuk for the good progress achieved after the last SG 6 meeting.

On 13 February 2021, ITU joined the celebration of the 10th anniversary of the World Radio Day. This year's World Radio Day is particularly significant, given the role that radio broadcasters continue to play in the battle against COVID-19. As the fight against the pandemic continues, broadcasting including Radio has been a close companion for many, with broadcasters curating trustworthy information, fighting misinformation, and providing much-needed entertainment during lockdowns. Never before has broadcasting and the work of the Study Group 6 working parties, played such a valued role in all our lives, providing News, Entertainment and Education during a time where much of the

social interaction we always took for granted, has been so radically curtailed. Recent world events have demonstrated that the value of the work carried out over the years has never been more important to all Nations and all peoples.

Because of the COVID-19, in 2020, the studies and discussions could not be as easily and as efficiently conducted as we do in physical meetings. Despite those challenges and obstacles, the fruitful outputs of Study Group 6, which approved, for example, 9 Recommendations, demonstrated once again the high productivity and high quality of your work.

I was very happy to learn about some impressive achievements regarding the preparation for the various WRC-23 agenda. Task Group 6/1 successfully organized its first meeting, during which the structure, management team, workplan as well as the terms of references of 3 established working group were defined, the structure of the working documents on study of AI 1.5 was developed, laying a good foundation for the following preparation for the draft CPM text. As the contributing group on WRC-23 agenda items 1.4, 1.5, 1.9, 1.12 and 9.1 topic a), WP 6A has completed the required materials, including particularly the draft analysis of spectrum needs and use of broadcasting service in UHF band in Region1, before the agreed deadlines. WP 6A is also poised to provide additional information and suggestions and comments on the above-mentioned agenda items.

Dear friends,

Radio broadcasting has also adapted to the rapidly evolving technological landscape and remains one of the most dynamic, reactive, and engaging media. ITU provides a platform from which radiocommunication experts develop recommendations which enable countries to efficiently operate their radio broadcast systems. Based on the scope defined in the Resolution ITU-R 4-8, Study Group 6 is well placed to play an important role in the study of emerging services and applications. These services and applications involve the distribution of multimedia material by new means such as over-the-air distribution of television programme material to fixed, portable and handheld receivers or for distribution via the internet, mobile broadband, for instance IMT, and cable connections. I would like to highlight your excellent work carried out recently in this context:

- The 5G terrestrial broadcast and ATSC 3.0 systems are being reviewed for including them in the suite of ITU-R Reports and Recommendations maintained by SG6 in which new broadcasting standards are documented. Those technologies are of great interest to broadcasters around the world.
- Excellent progress has been made with studies into providing a wide range of access services for all media, especially using artificial intelligence (AI) and machine learning (ML) tools to automate and expand the range and quality of services available in line with the UN Convention.
- New studies into the impact of production processes on the environment especially around the rapidly increasing use of server and cloud content creation and international exchange (again in line with the ITU and UN targets); as well as
- Consolidating and modernizing HDR-TV and Audio related Recommendations and Reports.

As one of the most productive Study Groups, I noted that, as usual, there is a number of draft Recommendations and Reports on broadcasting that will be reviewed at today's meeting. Some of them are an important support to the work of other groups.

On this point, I would like to stress that, with the electronic working conditions, we need an extra effort to work together in a constructive and collegial environment, as it has been traditional in ITU-R. Chairmen are doing their best to respect the limited meeting time and to conduct the meetings in a fair manner, I count on your cooperation spirit to help them in this endeavor. Please reduce to the extent possible your interventions and the duration of them, go straight to the point and provide your constructive proposal, this is the ITU-R style!

Mr Chairman,

Let me conclude by reassuring you, once again, that the BR will continue providing its full support to your group on conducting your work, and by wishing you all a very successful meeting.

Thanks very much for your attention.