

## Reception for Network of Women for WRC

Dubai, United Arab Emirates

### Opening Remarks

9 December 2023

**Mario Maniewicz**  
**Director, Radiocommunication Bureau**

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Your Excellency, Mr. Mohamed Al-Ramsi, Deputy Director-General of TDRA and Chairman of WRC-19

Distinguished guests,

Dear colleagues and friends,

This is such a happy moment for me as we come together to celebrate the work and successes of the Network of Women for WRC-23.

We have one week left to go in the WRC-23, where we anticipate a big success in adopting decisions that are tremendously important for our global community. But there is much that we can already recognize as achievements of the WRC-23 even at this early stage. Those achievements are a result of the work carried out by this community and I could not be happier about them. Let me name a few:

- As of today, there are **774** women delegates **PRESENT** of the **1,064** women delegates **REGISTERED** at the WRC-23. (NOTE: There are now 3,504 delegates present of the 4,751 registered. That makes this the largest WRC ever.)
- Women make up 22% of the delegates of the conference, which is the highest at any time. Yes, we would like more women involved in the work. But this is a larger percentage of a larger number of overall delegates present and registered for the conference.

- We have 216 women Heads of Delegation, 28 women ministers, 14 women deputy ministers and 17 women ambassadors.
- Three of the seven committee chairs and 10 committee vice chairs are women. We have 2 working group chairs and 8 sub-working group chairs.
- We also have more BR women in leadership positions within the Secretariat.
- Women have also been involved in the preparatory processes in every regional group.
- The Chair of the CPM was Ms Cindy Cook
- The Chair of the 2023 Radiocommunication Assembly was Ms. Carol Wilson

At every level, women have and continue to play key roles in this conference. These achievements are in no small measure, the result of the work of the Network of Women for WRC-23.

And, of course, through the hard work of the NOW4WRC23 and the RAG Correspondence Group on Gender, the 2023 Radiocommunication Assembly adopted an ITU-R Resolution on Gender equity, equality and parity.

I would like to take this opportunity to recognize the work of the Network of Women and to pledge my ongoing support for the continuation of its activities.

In that regard, I would like to take this opportunity to announce and launch the Network of Women for WRC-27. At the beginning of the new year, I will send a letter to the Regional Groups to ask them to nominate or re-nominate their co-chairs. Once we have a leadership structure in place, my deputy will then convene a virtual meeting of the NOW4WRC27 leadership where they can plan their future activities.

I challenge the new NOW4WRC 27 to be bold – let's take from the successes of the last four years and see how we can surpass them. You are being launched in Dubai, one of the most creative and innovative places in the world. Let the spirit of Dubai inspire your work.

Lastly, I challenge our male colleagues to be the friends of women – to do much more than you have ever done before; to be supporters and facilitators of progress towards gender equity, equality and parity. This will make a better world for everyone.

Thank you.