

Fifth meeting of Study Group 6 in Study Period 2019-2023

Geneva, Switzerland

Opening Remarks

18 March 2022

**Mario Maniewicz,
Director, ITU 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 fifth meeting of Study Group 6 in this study period. Unfortunately, current circumstances around the world do not allow the level of safety required to meet in person and we have had to organize, once again, a virtual meeting. Hopefully, it will be the last one of this kind.

As I usually do, let me start by expressing my appreciation to the chairman, Mr. Yukihrio Nishida and the Vice-Chairs of Study Group 6.

I also 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. Sergey Pastuk, for the good progress achieved after the last SG 6 meeting.

As you know, we just celebrated the World Radio Day 2022, with the theme chosen for this year being “Radio and Trust”. The theme is fitting because, even in the current climate of growing distrust in journalism and the abundance of choice of platforms and content in an ever-evolving media landscape, radio remains the most trusted, prevalent, and accessible medium in people’s lives. Its resilience has often played a life-saving role during times of crises, and its ability to evolve, innovate, and connect people through the airwaves is beyond comparison.

ITU-R Study Group 6 and its predecessors were tasked with devising international standards, also known as ITU-R Recommendations, for end-to-end broadcasting systems. These standards lay the foundation for technical trust in the quality, safety and compatibility of radio and TV broadcasting systems, which in turn support inclusive and sustainable development for people and for our planet. We are proud of your achievements and confident that ITU-R SG6 will continue to play a leading role in the global broadcasting community.

At the Radiocommunication Assembly 2019, ITU member states agreed on two new Resolutions ITU-R 70 and 71, setting out principles for the further development of broadcasting. These call for a roadmap focused on audio-visual quality assessment and accessibility, audio and video coding, integrated broadcast-broadband (IBB), multimedia, and other emerging technologies and applications. I am pleased to see SG 6 has established a Rapporteur Group on a vision of the Future of Broadcasting to facilitate this roadmap by drafting a supporting ITU-R Recommendation and/or a Report. I am happy to be informed that this Rapporteur Group has been actively conducting its work by organizing weekly virtual meetings within the interval between two SG 6 block meetings, and I wish you success in this regard. I certainly hope to see your report submitted to RA-23.

I am also very happy to learn that impressive outcomes on the preparation for the WRC-23 agenda items have been achieved. Task Group 6/1 has organized four meetings, which outputs indicate the progress achieved, which lays a good foundation for the finalization of the preparation of the draft CPM text on time. As the contributing group of WRC-23 agenda items 1.4, 1.5, 1.9, 1.12 and 9.1 topic a), WP 6A has completed the required materials and is continuing to provide additional information, suggestions and comments on the above agenda items.

I am also very pleased to see that SG 6 remains as one of the most productive Study Groups despite the constraints brought by the virtual meetings, such as reduced working hours, and lack of opportunities for offline discussions among delegates, which are usually effective to reach compromise. I also noted, as usual, 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.

Mr. Chairman,

As you know, before the meeting of TG6/1, we managed to reach an agreement with the main parties that would allow the work of the task group to progress, and avoid the harsh debates that prevailed in previous meetings. I am told that this desired constructive atmosphere existed during the first week of the meeting, but afterwards we continued to experience tedious discussions, harsh debates and an unfriendly atmosphere prevailed, which spelt over to the following WP 6A meeting.

I would like to reiterate that this doesn't reflect our tradition of mutual respect and that, in particular with the electronic working conditions, we all need to make an extra effort to work together in a constructive environment. I count on all of you to adhere to this basic principle.

Dear friends,

To end my brief remarks, let me reiterate that the Bureau will continue to its utmost to provide the support that your group requires to conduct its work, and remains at your disposal to provide all necessary assistance you might need.

With this, Mr. Chairman, let me conclude by wishing you all a very successful meeting.

Thanks very much for your kind attention.