

## **TSAG**

ITU Headquarters, Geneva, Switzerland

### **Opening Remarks**

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Good morning!

This is an important year for the ITU, and particularly for the ITU-T, with the upcoming World Telecommunication Standardization Assembly and the Global Standards Symposium.

Defining the next study period for ITU-T will allow experts from around the world to continue developing standards that ensure telecommunications have adequate quality and security, are interoperable, affordable, and accessible to all.

Similarly, at the end of 2023, the Radiocommunication Assembly also defined the leadership and the study questions for the ITU-R.

In the ITU-R, we highly value and encourage the coordination of activities with the ITU-T regarding matters of common interest to both of our Sectors. This collaborative approach ensures that each Sector works within its mandate, thus avoiding redundant efforts, maximizing efficiency, and optimizing the use of the Union's financial resources to the benefit of our members.

As you surely remember, at your meeting last year, I reported to you on the concern raised by the RAG regarding the growing trend in ITU-T, particularly its Study Groups 5, 13 and 20, of addressing matters that are uniquely within the mandates of ITU-R Study Groups, such as work on Unmanned Aircraft Systems and satellite technologies.

In this regard and considering the coordination efforts carried out since then by the BR and TSB counsellors to avoid such overlapping activities, we will keep monitoring the progress and will report on the expected improvements.

Dear colleagues,

Since the last exchange of Liaison statements by TSAG and the RAG in May 2023, significant developments have taken place. The work of the ITU-R study groups has progressed, and notably, the Radiocommunication Assembly and the World Radiocommunication Conference of 2023 took important decisions on radiocommunication related matters.

Today, I want to share with you some of the advancements of the ITU-R that may be of interest to ITU-T in general and to the TSAG in particular.

- Firstly, on Unmanned Aircraft Systems (UAS):

WRC-23 considered regulatory actions to accommodate the use of fixed-satellite service networks by control and non-payload communications of unmanned aircraft systems.

After lengthy deliberations, the Conference instructed ITU-R to study, as a matter of urgency, necessary measures to facilitate the operation of earth stations on board unmanned aircraft used for control and non-payload communication operated in non-segregated airspace using satellite links by the aeronautical mobile-satellite (route) service in suitable frequency bands in order to decide on the appropriate course of action to be taken for WRC-31. It also invited Administrations to contribute on the matter.

RAG will certainly provide further guidance to TSAG regarding any work they may propose to undertake in that area.

- Secondly, on IMT-2020 and IMT-2030, as well as on the convergence of Fixed, Mobile and Satellite:

As you know, ITU-R has a rich history in developing radio interface standards for International Mobile Telecommunications. From IMT-2000 (3G) to IMT-Advanced (4G) and the more recently published specification for IMT-2020 (5G). Working Party 5D has already initiated the standardization process for IMT-2030 (6G).

In addition, World Radiocommunication Conferences have identified frequency bands for IMT, enabling global harmonization and widespread use of these technologies.

WRC-23 extended broadband communication to the air and the sea, with regulatory provisions and interference management mechanisms for earth stations in motion on aircrafts and vessels to communicate with both geostationary and non-geostationary space stations.

Moreover, new Agenda Items for WRC-27 were approved to consider new allocations to the mobile-satellite service for direct connectivity between space stations and IMT user equipment to complement terrestrial network coverage; and for the future development of low-data-rate non-geostationary mobile-satellite systems to provide connectivity to the Internet of things. These new agenda items reflect the expected convergence of terrestrial and satellite networks.

I would also like to draw your attention to the Small Satellites Handbook published in 2023, which, inter alia, promotes and provides technical assistance to developing countries, enterprises, and individuals in the field of small satellite utilization.

These are just some examples of the work carried out and planned by the ITU-R, covering Unmanned Aircraft Systems (UAS), Fixed, mobile and satellite convergence, airborne broadband communication in IMT networks, and satellite communications.

As we commence a new study cycle in 2024, these topics will be explored in-depth by ITU-R study groups, culminating in the corresponding updating of the Radio Regulations by the World Radiocommunication Conference of 2027.

I invite all Administrations interested in these topics or other Radiocommunication-related subjects, to engage in the work of the ITU-R.

Mr. Chairman,

As I mentioned previously, we appreciate the long-standing collaboration between the ITU-R and ITU-T, since we believe it produces synergies, and minimizes overlaps.

As a new year begins, let us take this opportunity to establish priorities and increase our collaboration to deliver the best results to our members.

Thank you.