

Validation Forum for the Draft African Spectrum Allocation Plan (AfriSAP)

Online event

Opening remarks

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Mr. John Omo, Secretary General of the African Telecommunication Union,

Mr. Christian MINOUNGOU, Representative of the African Union Commission

Ladies and Gentlemen,

Good morning to you all.

It is with great enthusiasm and joy that I address you today in the opening of this Validation Forum for the Draft African Spectrum Allocation Plan (AfriSAP).

Since the Tokyo Summer Olympic Games have recently ended, allow me to start by applauding the historic results achieved by both men and women of the African continent competing in Athletics, Swimming, Surfing, Karate, Wrestling, and many other sports.

We all know that winning an Olympic medal requires a lot of effort. It requires strength, perseverance, and resilience. Characteristics perceived in athletes, and also in many African people in general.

The development of this first edition of the African Spectrum Plan is a symbol of perseverance. I congratulate you on its conclusion. It is truly inspiring to witness the evolution of the African Region in the field of spectrum management.

Only a few months back, in April this year, the ATU officially launched its first set of Spectrum Recommendations, which focused on mobile broadband systems.

At the time, I mentioned the importance of developing further sets of regionally harmonized recommendations aligned with international frameworks.

Now, I am very pleased to note that your efforts have continued and there is substantial work being carried out by African countries, under the auspices of the African Telecommunications Union.

Some of the ATU action programmes are being conducted together with the ITU, as for example, the optimization of the GE84 Plan for African countries. And others, are grounded on the international frameworks developed by ITU.

The African Spectrum Allocation Plan, for example, uses as a reference the 2020 edition of the ITU Radio Regulations, as well as ITU-R Recommendations. It replicates the allocations of the Radio Regulations for Region 1 and goes a step further by showing Africa's common allocations as well as typical applications that are used by African administrations.

Bringing together countries of the East and the West, of Central, South and North Africa to integrate in a single document the information of an entire continent, was a great accomplishment. And it will help promote a single digital market in Africa, increasing investments and economies of scale.

Moreover, knowing how spectrum is currently being used, it is the first step in the path towards harmonization of spectrum resources. Then of course, the assessment of future needs of different services, the conduction of sharing studies, and the definition of regional priorities, will guide the development of African common proposals for World Radiocommunication Conferences.

In the ITU we are eager to continue our joint activities and to support you in the path towards promoting harmonized and rational planning and use of radio spectrum and orbital resources.

The African Spectrum Allocation Plan is an accomplishment that deserves more than a gold medal and I encourage you to continue this laudable work.

I hope that the example of Africa's constructive and cooperative spirit would serve as an inspiration for other Regions around the globe.

Thanks very much for your attention.