

World Telecommunication and Information Society Day - Hungary

Győr - Hungary

Opening Remarks

16 May 2024

Mario Maniewicz

Director, Radiocommunication Bureau

Delivered by Cessy Karina, Senior ITU Radiocommunication Engineer

Dr Zoltán Horváth, Dean of Faculty of Mechanical Engineering, Informatics and Electrical Engineering of István Széchenyi University,

Dr. András Lapsánszky, Deputy President of NMHH,

Mr. Péter VÁRI Phd., Deputy Director General of the National Media and Infocommunications Authority,

Dr Orsolya Ferencz, Ministerial Commissioner, Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade,

Ladies and Gentlemen,

It is with great pleasure and honour that I address you today, representing our esteemed Director of the Radiocommunication Bureau, Mr. Mario Maniewicz, on this occasion of World Telecommunication and Information Society Day 2024.

Today, we gather to celebrate WTISD, which marks the anniversary of the establishment of the International Telecommunication Union in 1865 and provides an opportunity for us to reflect on the profound impact that information and communication technologies (ICT) have on our lives, societies, and economies.

In keeping with current trends and the focus of many of ITU's members, the theme for this year's celebrations is "Digital innovation for sustainable development".

Stemming from ITU's Strategic Plan 2024 - 2027, and the two strategic goals of universal connectivity and sustainable digital transformation, the theme provides all ITU members the opportunity to celebrate digital innovation from different perspectives with a focus on sustainable development.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

As you are aware, Hungary was one of the founding members of ITU on the 17th May 1865. Hungary was also a signatory among the maritime states that convened to sign the first International Radio Telegraph Convention in Berlin on November 3, 1906. This convention laid the groundwork for what would eventually evolve into the ITU Radio Regulations.

Digital transformation has become the engine of world economic and social development, and radiocommunications are the vector by which much of this transformation is taking place. They contribute directly, and as enablers to each and every one of the UN's Sustainable Development Goals.

I am delighted to say that throughout ITU's 159-year history, we have been very fortunate to count on the support of the Hungarian public sector, private sector, and academia.

Today, as we commemorate this day, we also acknowledge the significant contribution of the Hungarian National Media and Infocommunications Authority Frequency Management Unit which is celebrating 55 years of dedicated service. The expertise and dedication of individuals like Irén Bálint, János Balogh, István Bartolits, and Péter Vári have been recognized not only within Hungary but also at the ITU level, underscoring Hungary's commitment to excellence in regulatory practices.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

The theme of your celebrations this year ‘Space Research and Communication’ highlights the critical role space-based technologies are playing in enhancing lives in the modern world. Today satellites are providing much-needed communication connectivity solutions and support vital services across diverse sectors, including agriculture, banking, and transportation. They also save lives during emergencies and offer crucial environmental insights.

Just a few months ago we successfully concluded the 2023 World Radiocommunication Conference which identified new spectrum resources to support technological innovation and increase access to and equitable use of space-based radio resources.

The outcomes of WRC-23 have significant implications for space technologies, focusing on advancements and regulatory updates that aim to foster innovation while ensuring the sustainable and equitable use of space-based spectrum resources.

Key WRC-23 decisions on space include the allocation of more spectrum to space services; additional protections for space research and Earth exploration; a more stable and transparent regulatory framework for space services; and forward-looking studies that include inter-satellite links, low-orbiting constellations, lunar communications and other novel applications.

We have now embarked on our journey towards WRC-27 and I look forward to your active participation in the conference preparatory process. More than 80 per cent of the conference deliberations will be devoted to space-related issues, including agenda items addressing lunar communications and direct connectivity between personal mobile devices and satellites.

Ladies and gentlemen,

The power of ICT to transform lives is undeniable. From telemedicine in remote communities to digital education platforms that bring knowledge to every corner of the globe, the potential is limitless. Yet, this potential can only be realized if we ensure that every person has the means to access and use these technologies.

On this World Telecommunication and Information Society Day, let us renew our commitment to a digitally inclusive world where every individual can harness the power of ICTs for enhancing their education, healthcare, and economic advancement. Let us work together—governments, industry, academia, and civil society—to innovate, invest, and inspire a future where the digital divide is no more.

Furthermore, let us recognize the importance of space-based research and communication in this endeavor and work to ensure that space remains a domain for collaboration, innovation, and progress.

I would like to thank the Hungarian National Media and Infocommunications Authority and the city of Győr for hosting this WTISD event.

I am confident that the more than 150-year collaboration between ITU and Hungary will continue to grow and flourish.

Thank you very much.