

Radiocommunication Bureau open for (virtual) business

Today we are all living, learning, and working under exceptional circumstances because of the COVID-19 global health emergency.

To protect the health of delegates and staff and to help to curb the spread of COVID-19, ITU continues to encourage staff to work from home where possible, while our meetings and events have gone virtual.

Considering the restrictions still applicable in Switzerland related to the limitation of the number of participants, as well as the restrictions to international travel, meetings organized by the ITU involving external participants will continue to be organized remotely until further notice. We are however making full use of the available technology to ensure ITU's core functions and services to members are maintained.

BR remote participation (virtual) meetings

In the Radiocommunication Bureau and with the support of the ITU Information Services Department we remain virtually open for key meetings and consultation with our members.

The following statutory meetings are scheduled to take place virtually

- The [Radio Regulations Board](#) will meet from 22 to 26 March 2021.
- The 28th meeting of the [Radiocommunication Advisory Group](#) (RAG) will take place from 29 March to 1 April 2021. The RAG is open to representatives of Administrations of Member States and representatives of Sector Members, and to the Chairmen of the Study Groups and other groups.

Following consultation with the ITU-R Study Groups leaders, and considering the necessary matters to be addressed, all meeting of the [ITU-R Study Groups](#) and related Working Parties will continue to held virtually. Advance registration, and focal point approval, remain necessary to participate in the event(s) remotely. Instructions can be found in the [Remote participants Guidelines](#).

I invite you to visit the [BR meetings portal](#) to see the status of your meeting.

In 2020 the Radiocommunication Bureau held several virtual meetings. These included:

- The [World Radiocommunication Seminar 2020](#) was for the first time ever held virtually from 30 November to 11 December 2020. The seminar provided the opportunity to learn about regulatory aspects of radiocommunication and how to use radio-frequency spectrum and satellite orbits equitably. Also, for the first time, the Plenary Sessions held during the first week of the seminar were open to everyone, including entities that are not members of the ITU Radiocommunication Sector (ITU-R). The Workshop Sessions held during the second week of the WRS20 continued to be provided as an ITU-R Members-only event. The WRS20 plenary sessions were attended by 2, 183 participants from 159 countries, with the workshop sessions attended by 914 participants from 143 countries.
- The Bureau hosted a series of [Satellite Webinars](#) discussing current technical and regulatory situation, evolution, and trends in the field of satellite communication.
- The 83rd and 84th meetings of the [Radio Regulations Board](#) meeting were both held virtually with full interpretation in English, French and Russian. The members of the board,

connecting from 12 different countries, joined the meeting along with the BR Director and BR subject matter experts.

- The 27th meeting of the [Radiocommunication Advisory Group](#) (RAG) took place from 25 to 27 May 2020. This was the first ever virtual RAG meeting. The meeting had over 200 participants from 25 Member States and 22 other entities joining virtually with full interpretation in all the six Union languages.
- The ITU [Regional Radiocommunication Seminar](#) 2020 for the Americas Region (RRS-20-Americas) was held virtually from 13-24 July in collaboration with the Caribbean Telecommunications Union (CTU). The seminar drew more than 350 participants from 38 countries. The [Radiocommunication Seminar](#) for the Asia-Pacific region was held virtually from 19-30 October 2020.

Tools for our BR members and customers

The [Final Acts](#) of the World Radiocommunication Conference WRC-19 are available online for free download.

The 2020 ITU [Radio Regulations](#) are available in all six of ITU's official languages. Electronic versions of the Regulations can be downloaded free of charge. The traditional four-volume boxed set, as well as a multi-lingual DVD are now available for purchase with discounts available to ITU members.

ITU has also published the [Radio Regulations Table of Frequency Allocations Software](#) as well as the [Maritime Manual](#), which provides details on the modern maritime radio systems and the operational procedures to be followed by a ship or coast station in the event of a distress situation at sea. Both publications are available for sale.

Due to the limitations to postal delivery imposed by the Swiss authorities, the delivery of physical DVDs containing BR IFIC were suspended from 31 March 2020 to 13 October 2020. BR IFIC Nos. 2917 to 2930 that were issued during the suspension of DVD delivery have since been dispatched and the usual fortnightly delivery of DVDs recommenced with the IFIC Edition No. 2931. See [Circular Letter CR/469](#) for more information.

Platforms being used for Remote Participation in ITU Meetings

ITU member states and delegates can participate in meetings remotely using different web conferencing platforms. We are using the platforms described below to provide the opportunity for delegates to engage in our various meetings.

ITU Meetings with Interpretation in the six UN languages: ITU has been a pioneer of Multilingual Interactive Remote Participation (MIRP) which allows Member States to participate in ITU meetings remotely with interpretation in the six official languages. It was first used during the eruption of Eyjafjallajökull volcano in Iceland which disrupted air traffic in Europe in April 2010.

The ITU-R currently uses the "Interprefy" and "ZOOM" MIRP platforms that allow delegates to participate interactively using any of the six ITU official languages.

ITU-R Meetings in a single Language: For remote participation without interpretation, the commercial tools being used are ZOOM; GoToMeeting, GoToWebinar, etc. (with PSTN dial available).

The above measures are being implemented on a temporary basis to cope with the restrictions and difficulties due to the Covid-19 pandemic that the entire world is facing.

Thank you for your understanding and we look forward to your active participation.